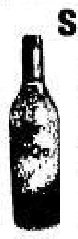
SUNDAY BIZ / B1



Intoxicating prospect:

Local vodka from Quezon province to invade US market

JOB *Market*

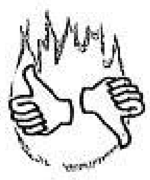
Check out

10,000 jobs today

LIFESTYLE / C1

Sunday Sizzlers:

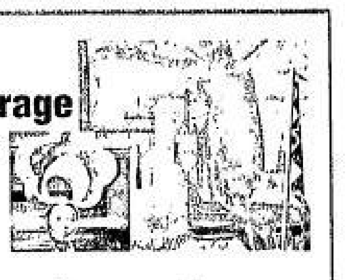
From Tagaytay Highlands to a 'kapamilya' feud to an ex-pol and ex-con pushing himself now as God's gift to the disadvantaged but who has in the main disadvantaged his ex-wife to Who's Who at the Il Divo concert.



LIFESTYLE / C2

Cocooning is all the rage

Jean Goulbourn on dressing up homes in Silk Cocoon, from lampshades to drapes to throw pillows.



Chill brings out winter fashion of Baguio folk

COOL PARE, KASO INAMAG NA ANG WINTER COAT KO!

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—THE cold spell has turned Baguio's streets into showcases for winter wear.

CHILL/ A19

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARL[illegible] VIEWS

Sunday, February 4, 2007 ★★ 10 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 58 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

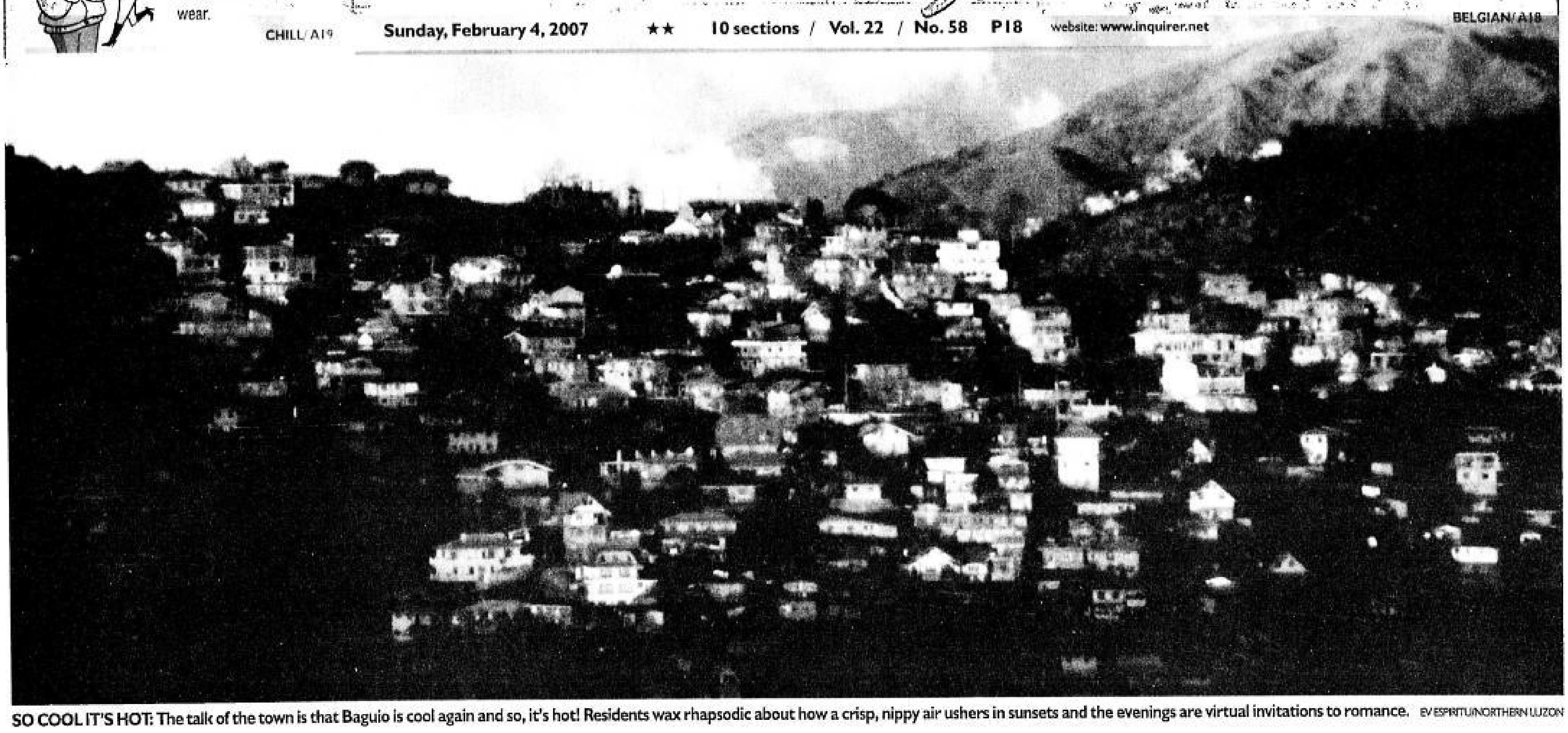
Belgian clowns show laughter has no borders

By Julie M. Aurelio

THE CLOWN, WHITE-FACED WITH ROUGE cheeks, started pulling invisible strings to make his lips, cheeks and eyebrows go in different directions.

His audience, made up of scruffy neighborhood kids aged 3 to 19 years old and their par-

BELGIAN/ A18



SO COOL IT'S HOT: The talk of the town is that Baguio is cool again and so, it's hot! Residents wax rhapsodic about how a crisp, nippy air ushers in sunsets and the evenings are virtual invitations to romance. EV ESPIRITU/NORTHERN LUZON

General held hostage

15-man gov't peace panel detained by MNLF in Jolo

By Julie S. Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—THEIR hosts called them "brothers," put them up in a special guesthouse, served them all the food of their choice, even allowed them use of their cell phones. But the hosts made one thing clear: They cannot leave.

Detained with about 15 other government people since Friday inside a camp of the Moro National Liberation Front, Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, a Muslim convert, said he and his group had tried to leave the MILF camp but were not allowed to depart.

"We have been prevented to leave the camp," Dolorfino, head of the National Capital Region command, told the INQUIRER yesterday. "We cannot leave the place."

He also said: "We are being held as a sort of leverage."

Dolorfino, whose group included Undersecretary for Peace and former general Ramon Santos, refused to elaborate on what he meant by "leverage." *(They may be released today, Dolorfino told the INQUIRER. last night. See story on Page A6.)*

Dolorfino and his team went to the MNLF's Camp Jabal Uhod in Panamao on Jolo on Friday morning to talk with rebel representatives on problems related to the full implementation of the 1996 peace agreement between the government and the Moro group.

On Friday afternoon, they were stopped from leaving the camp.

Sulu Gov. Benjamin Loong and an MILF official confirmed to the INQUIRER that Dolorfino's group had been taken hostage.

GENERAL/ A6

INQUIRER PHOTO

CAPTOR AND CAPTIVE: In a breakthrough meeting last May, Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino (left) prepared with MNLF leader Habier Malik in the latter's camp to pave the way for talks between MNLF forces and a high-level mission from the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which was to monitor the 1996 peace pact between RP and the MNLF.

Gov't holds off rescue; media kept in the dark

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Dona Pazzibugan, and Norman Bordadora

THE ARMED FORCES YESTERDAY held off any military action to recover a government official, an Army general and about a dozen other people detained in a Moro rebel camp in Jolo, as Malacanang kept the media in the dark about what was really happening with them.

"There's no need for military action. We are monitoring the progress of the negotiations. The negotiations are ongoing," said AFP public information chief Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro.

He said no troops had been deployed around Panamao town in Jolo, where a government peace mission headed by Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino had been detained since Friday inside a Moro rebel camp.

"We will just monitor the situation."

GOV'T/ A4

WHAT'S INSIDE

DEATH TOLL
in Zambo gas blast rises to 50; 65 injured, more than 40 of whom are in serious condition.

NEWS / A2

BINAY VS LAPID
Lito Lapid declares candidacy for Makati mayor

NEWS / A4

MORE POLITICAL KILLINGS
Urban poor organizer shot dead in Leyte town

ACROSS / A15

RANDY DAVID:
If we believe that tinkering with the Constitution is suicidal as long as the country is run by an illegitimate president, how could we possibly think that elections conducted by the same regime would be different? A boycott would be more sensible.

OPINION / A13

VODKA-POWERED KICKOFF

Father of 'baby' Catholic Church in Mongolia is a Filipino bishop

By Christian V. Esguerra

ONE SUMMER, 13 YEARS AGO, BISHOP Wenceslao Padilla was drinking vodka at 3 in the afternoon in a hotel-restaurant in Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia.

Padilla, who was then a missionary priest in his early 40s, had an important mission—to establish the Catholic Church in the land of Genghis Khan, a longtime communist territory.

So there he was, downing glasses of wine, whisky and finally, vodka with a top government official who held the key to the formal entry of the Catholic faith in Mongolia.

Padilla needed the man's signature so he could initially register the Catholic Church as a nongovernmental organization. The application for the Catholic Church Mission had earlier been rejected.

Mindful of the Mongolian culture and bureaucracy, he had invited the official for drinks to explain the purpose of the Church.

After two hours, both men were drunk. But before they parted ways, the Mongolian official agreed to meet with the Filipino priest the following day.

The next day, Padilla was given the go-signal, paving the way for the revival of Catholicism in the Central Asian country.

Since then, Padilla has been acknowledged as the father of the Mongolian Catholic Church, considered the "baby church" of the Christian world with its 345 followers.

Predominantly Buddhist Mongolia was so important to the Catholic world that the late Pope John Paul II planned a visit in time for Padilla's consecration as bishop in 2003. But travel complications kept His Holiness from the journey which would have been the first for a pope.

At present, there is a thriving church structure composed of an apostolic prefecture and three parishes.

The relative success of the church in Mongolia, largely through the efforts of Padilla and his fellow missionaries, is quietly known within the Catholic media.

Padilla and company were able to accomplish a lot by adapting to the country's culture while keeping their faith strong.

"I really thought I would become an alcoholic because of the culture in Mongolia," recalled the 57-year-old bishop in jest.

Padilla came to Ulan Bator with two other priests from the Missionaries of the

FATHER/ A19

Blast from past: Killing of Gens. Batalla, Bautista

By Lawrence de Guzman
Inquirer Research

THERE IS AT LEAST ONE INSTANCE OF ranking military officials being taken hostage—and killed—in Mindanao.

On Jan. 5, 1989, Brig. Gen. Eduardo Batalla, then commander of the Philippine Constabulary in Western Mindanao, and his chief of staff Col. Romeo Abendan, along with five other people, were taken hostage by discharged policemen and soldiers in Batalla's own office at the Recom-9 headquarters in Cawa-Cawa, Zamboanga City.

The hostage-takers were led by rogue cop Rizal Alih, who, along with the group numbering about seven, had been ordered to report to Batalla's office in connection with the killing of seven persons in 1984.

During the meeting, Alih was told that he and his men would be de-

BLAST/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2007

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Central Visayas and the whole of Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming frequent rains over eastern sections which may trigger falshfloods and landslides.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	**Iloilo/Bacolod**	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**Roxas**	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**Cebu**	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**Tacloban**	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	**Gen. Santos**	Cloudy with Rains
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Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	**Cagayan de Oro**	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	**Davao**	Cloudy with Rains

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/02/04/07 SOURCE PAGASA

Zambo gas blast toll rises to 50

By Hernan dela Cruz and Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

PAGADIAN CITY—THE DEATH TOLL FROM THE explosion of a truck carrying compressed carbon dioxide has risen to 50 after authorities accounted for the mutilated remains of more victims, officials said Saturday.

The provincial disaster coordinating council (PDCC) of Zamboanga del Sur said 65 others were injured in Friday's gas explosion in Tigbao town.

"The death toll climbed to 50 and more than 40 are still in critical condition," Maj. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, commander of the army's first infantry division, said. "My people are still recovering mutilated body parts, belongings and debris."

The PDCC report said it could not yet ascertain how many children were among those killed.

The truck, which was originally thought to be carrying liquefied petroleum gas, was negotiating a downhill stretch of the highway in Tigbao town when its brakes failed, causing it to slam into the side of the mountain before overturning and killing its driver.

Demolished

Minutes later, the tanker was demolished by a powerful explosion that ripped off the roof of a packed passing bus which took the full force of the blast, killing and wounding those aboard. The tanker truck's engine was found some 80 meters away from the blast.

Chief Supt. Jaime Caringal, Western Mindanao police chief, said the RS bus bound for Imelda town from this city was trying to get past the trailer truck when the explosion occurred.

The bus was wrecked beyond recognition and many of its estimated 60 passengers, some with children, were torn into pieces by flying debris. Many of the victims were also badly burned, making identification more difficult.

Roel Molina, chief of staff of Gov. Aurora Cerilles, said the earlier confusion on the number of deaths was caused by the fact that many of the bodies were mangled.

There continue to be disagreements also on what the tanker was carrying. Some reports said it was hauling carbon dioxide and caustic soda but Ferrer said that judging from the force of the explosion, it was likely to have been carrying LPG.

The truck owner told police the tanker contained liquefied carbon dioxide that was to be delivered to a Coca Cola plant in Zamboanga City, said provincial police chief Sr. Supt. Ramon Ochotorena.

Compressed carbon dioxide is used in carbonated drinks and aerosols.

Not CO_2?

But Archie Tan, a helper of the ill-fated trailer truck, told police investigators that the truck, owned by Recasa Trading Services of Cavite, just came from Cagayan de Oro City and was actually delivering liquefied sodium dioxide (Na2O2), not $C0_2$.

LUCKY ONES. Two survivors of the explosion await treatment at the hospital. HERNAN DELA CRUZ

"In our papers, it is carbon dioxide but we were actually delivering sodium dioxide," he said.

But he failed to explain why there was a discrepancy in the actual content of the tank and what was indicated in its papers.

Tan said the explosion occurred when a fire ignited from the bottom of the truck, 20 minutes after they figured in the mishap.

"We were trying to evacuate Noel Bajenting (the driver) when somebody shouted about the fire. So what I did was to jump into the ravine," Tan, 24, of Busco in Bukidnon, said.

An official of a soft drinks company in Davao City said they do not use Na2O2 in any of their plants.

Cleaning agent

"What we use is sodium hydroxide (NaOH) as a cleaning agent. But definitely not Na2O2," he said on condition of anonymity.

NaOH is also known as lye or caustic soda. An alkali, caustic soda is widely used in many industries, mostly as a strong chemical base in the manufacture of pulp and paper, textiles, drinking water, and detergents.

It is also a regulated substance being a major component in the manufacture of some drugs, including methamphetamine hydrochloride or shabu.

An investigation is still being carried out over what caused the explosion and the PDCC is asking that forensics experts be sent to help identify the mangled remains and to examine the debris and blast site.

Col. Emmanuel Sison, commander of the Army's 53rd Infantry Battalion, said that during the PDCC meeting it was agreed to seek the help of experts from the National Bureau of Investigation.

But Sison reiterated that the terror-angle is not being considered. "It was a plain accident," he said. *With reports from AP, Reuters and AFP*

List of Victims

THE FOLLOWING IS A PARTIAL list of fatalities and injured:

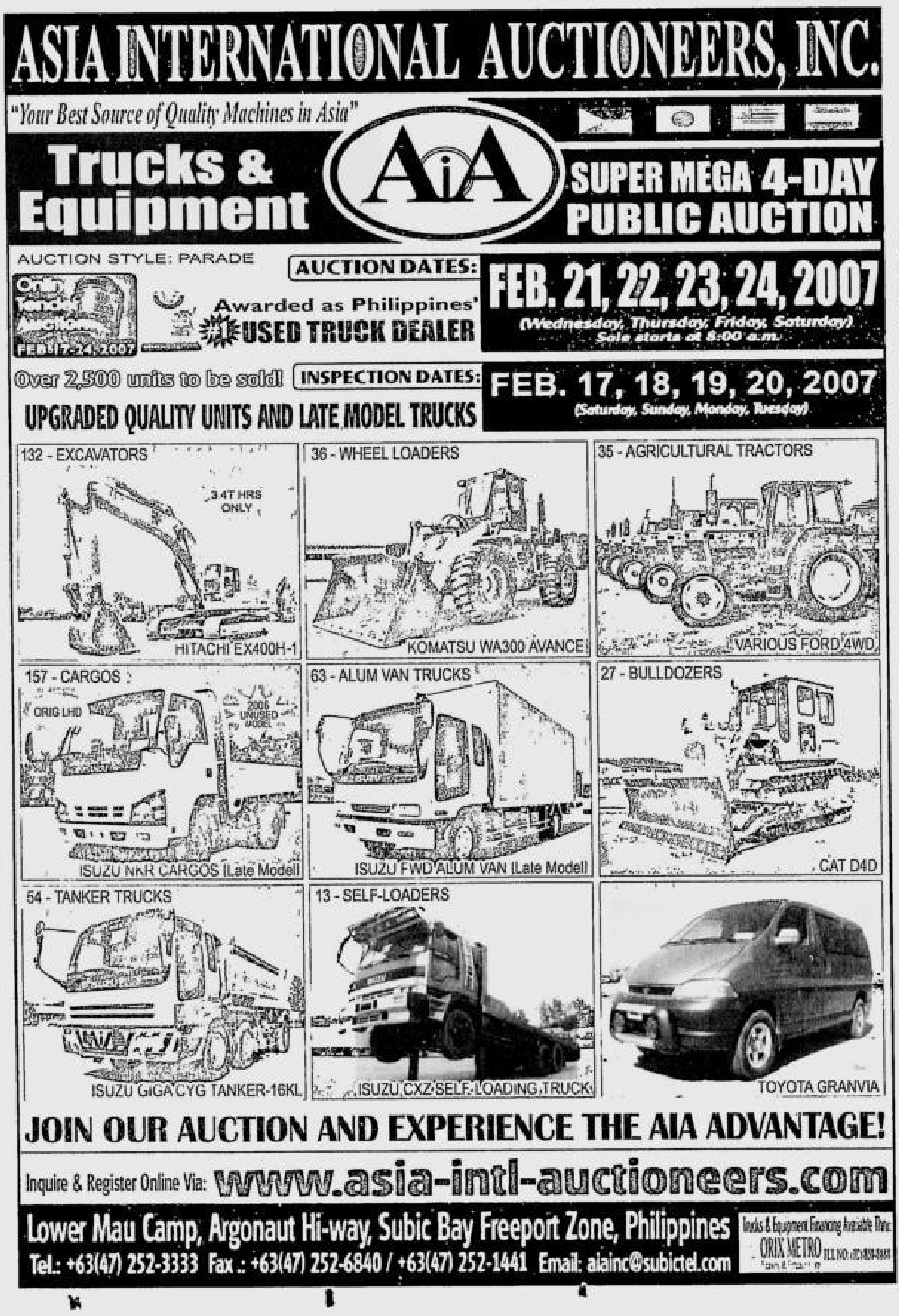
Funeraria Gamalinda: Berbanio, Belzebob; Dadlo, Analou; Villarta, Anafe; Ansaw, Aurillo; Ansangan, Argie; Hermina (no family name); Cabiara, Luther; Malinao, Saturlito; Villaganas, Beinvenido; Jison, Ernie; Gemina, Ronie; Llanos, Miguelito; Bucog, Pablito; Cabiara, Luther Jr. (infant) ; Villoria, Norman; Die, Mamerto and eight unidentified bodies; B. Funeraria Solas: Soriano, Boy and six unidentified bodies; Saint Peter Funeral Homes: Abergas, Richard; Maglon, Narciso and four unidentified dead bodies; Fatima Funeraria: Abo-Abo, Gloria B. and 11 unidentified bodies; and trailer driver Noel Bajenting (dead body can't be found).

Injured

Injured were (ZamboSur Provincial Hospital) Equin, Ramil; Tan, Archie (truck helper); Equin, Alan; Berbanio, Ruel 19 Male Maragang; Suganob, Ranel; Abergas, Rosemarie; Sabacahan, Berbanio, Merlyn; Taban, Enerio; Baring, Joven; Señoron, Walter; Patlingrao, Rosita; Sabacahan, David Haron; Abergas, Rosemarie; Cabiara, Kurt; Suganob, Gary ; Maglon, Meriana; Veraño, Jeffrey; Glepa, Ireneo (vice mayor of Molave); Gomez, Boyet; Arcama, Nur Alnihar; Luza, Reynaldo; and Gregorio, Alfredo; Pagadian City Medical Center: Diamante, Ronnie; Cabiara, Julieta; Duman-ag, Oliver; Dumaguing, Roland; Bagie, Danilo; Yabo, Eric; Jarela, Jeffrey; Castilo, Guillermo; Diamante, Rocky and an unidentified female;

Cooperative Hospital: Benjie Gayan; Borbon General Hospital: Berbanio, Roniel; Villaganas, Peter; Nillas, Julian; Carillo, Rodillo and Maglasang, Roy;

Pagadian Community Hospital: Noto, Joy (driver of RS Bus) and Villarias, Jigger; Saint Martin Clinic: Mandawe, Antonio and Gabito, Carlito.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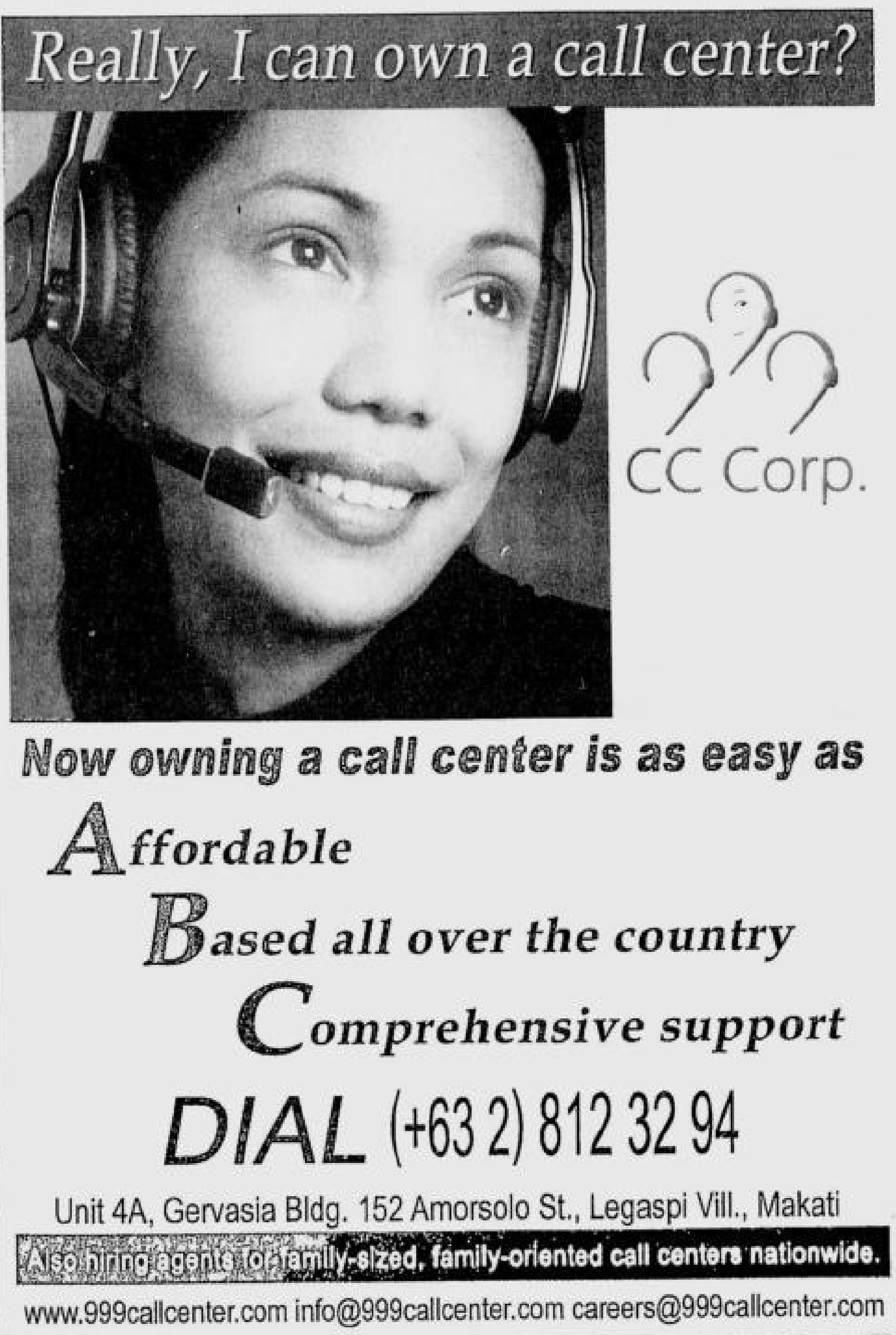
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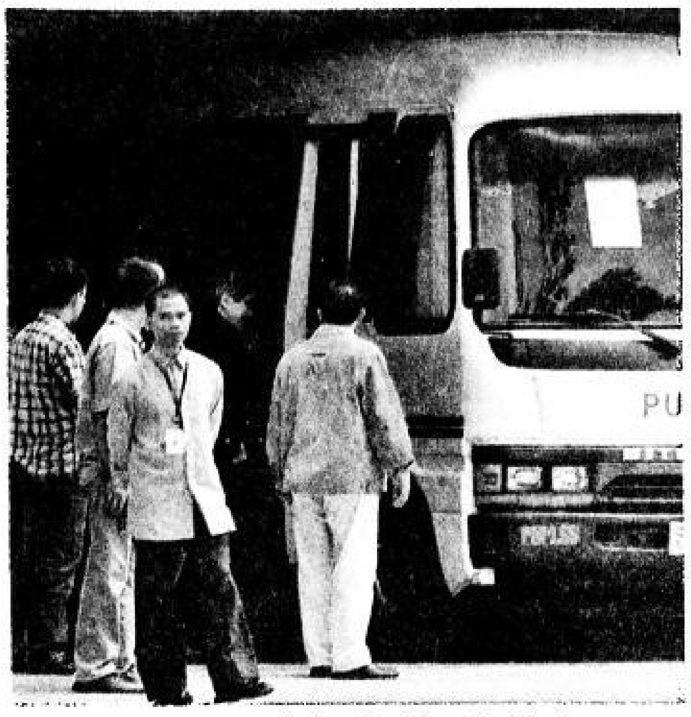

HONASAN hops on to a police bus after his medical checkup.
RODEL ROTONI

Gringo in 'top shape' for polls

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ACCUSED COUP PLOTTER FORMER SEN. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan is in "tiptop shape" to face the rigors of campaigning for the upcoming May elections, according to his lawyer.

Honasan, who expressed his plan to run again for senator, was granted a four-hour medical furlough by Judge Oscar Pimentel of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 148 yesterday morning from 8 a.m. to 12 noon at the Asian Hospital and Medical Center in Muntinlupa City.

"He is 90-percent well. He could even campaign for himself if the court allowed it," said his lawyer Victor Lansang a few hours after doctors examined Honasan's severely bruised leg. Honasan fractured his leg during his attempt to elude the police who arrested him in Quezon City on Nov. 15.

Honasan was taken from his detention cell at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna to the hospital in a Philippine National Police van mingled in a convoy of some 10 vehicles.

About 50 personnel from the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, the Special Action Force and the Southern Police District provided security for Honasan's checkup.

Reporters were barred from getting close to Honasan, who was seen walking with a slight limp toward the hospital entrance.

Honasan had his leg and chest examined with an X-ray machine, and his blood chemistry and blood pressure worked out, according to Lansang. The checkup took barely two hours. Honasan was immediarely whisked away the moment he stepped out of the hospital.

Lansang disclosed that Honasan would file a certificate of candidacy on Feb. 7 at the Commission of Elections main office in Intramuros, Manila.

He added that the checkup was to ensure that Honasan was fit enough to file his candidacy.

Honasan is accused of helping plot the short-lived mutiny at the Oakwood Premier luxury apartments in Makati City in 2003.

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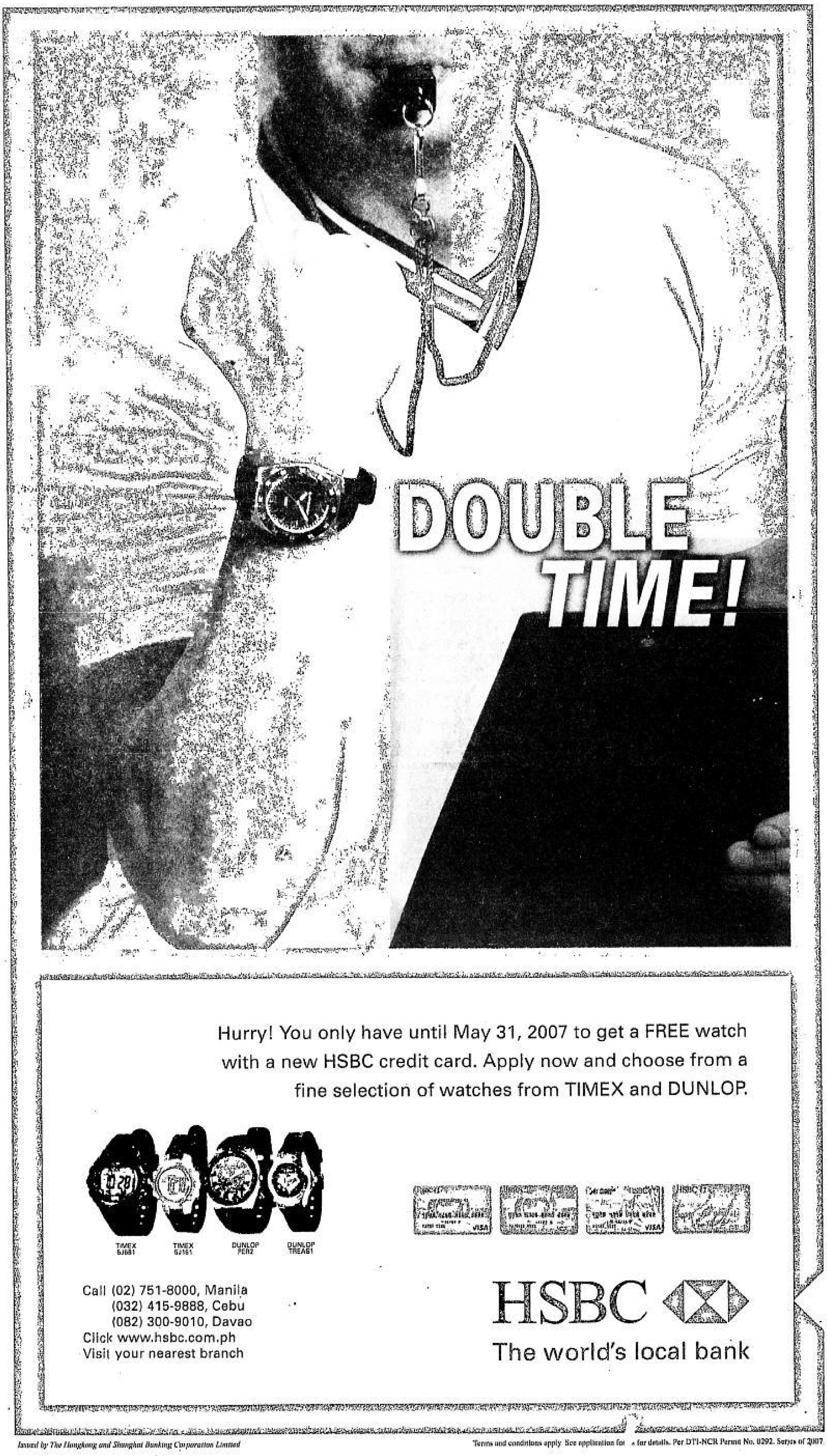

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It's Lito Lapid vs Binay in Makati mayoral race

By Jocelyn R. Uy

IT'S NOW FINAL.

Movie actor and administration Sen. Lito Lapid finally confirmed last night that he would run for mayor of Makati City, the country's financial capital, against opposition stalwart and incumbent Mayor Jejomar Binay after months of speculations over his rumored political plan.

"I admit that Binay is powerful. He has established Makati. But this is nothing personal ... this is just politics," Lapid said in Filipino at a press conference last night, a day after he was declared an official candidate of the Lakas Party.

And it looks like Lapid has found his own space—apart from his home in posh Magallanes Village—in the city, which has been under Binay's helm for two decades now.

It is in the small neighborhood of J. Victor Street in Barangay Pio del Pilar, where a mini concert was held to kick off his candidacy last night.

About a hundred residents, who were provided with shirts, basketballs and caps bearing Ton Genuino's name (son of Pagcor chair Ephraim Genuino), waited to get a glimpse of the movie star, who arrived from Pampanga at around 6 p.m.—two hours behind the scheduled announcement.

Among those joining Lapid in the administration ticket are doctor and singer Nonoy Zuniga, former councilor Oscar Ibay and basketball player Ronnie Cahanding.

Ibay and Zuniga might run for vice mayor against incumbent Ernesto Mer cado, Lapid said.

Earlier reports said Ms Macapagal-Arroyo, who is also from Pampanga, had convinced Lapid to challenge Binay in the mayoral race in the coming May elections.

CHALLENGE TO BINAY: It's official. Sen. Lito Lapid declares his intentions on Saturday to run for mayor of Makati, the bailiwick of the incumbent Jejomar Binay for the past 21 years. Councilor Anthony Geniuno raise the hands of Lapid (right) and Nonoy Zuñiga, the "singing doctor."

RYAN LIM

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New Air Force chief admits he almost went commercial

By Nikko Dizon

WHEN HE WAS A MAJOR, NEWLY appointed Air Force chief Maj. Gen. Horacio Tolentino, admits to having been ready to leave the service for greener pastures abroad as a commercial airline pilot.

"The lure of financial opportunities abroad was very strong but when my wife and I thought about it, we realized we could still get by here," Tolentino said in a mixture of English and Filipino in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Tolentino admitted as much in a speech at the turnover ceremonies yesterday at the Villamor Air Base when he formally took over the service command from the outgoing chief, Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes.

With Tolentino's appointment as the 29th Air Force commanding general, the dominance of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1974 in the military is complete. All the chiefs of the major service commands as well as Armed Forces Chief Gen. Hermogenes Esperon are from the class.

Tolentino, the first son of an Air Force enlisted soldier to head the Air Force, said he was committed to continuing the PAF's medium-term plan drawn up by his predecessor.

He vowed to use his expertise in human resources development, noting that the hardware needed to accomplish the goals of the Armed Forces' internal security operations was already in the pipeline.

"As a highly technical service, we should now start preparing our Air Force personnel who will eventually operate this equipment. I shall continue to motivate the most precious resource of the PAF by addressing their concerns," said Tolentino.

A seasoned helicopter pilot, Tolentino has served as assistant chief of air staff for personnel and Armed Forces deputy chief of staff for personnel.

The new PAF chief said he had nothing against Air Force pilots who resign to join the commercial airlines.

"As long as they do it properly and they don't go on AWOL, there'll be no problem," he said.

The PAF has taken a hard-line stance against PAF pilots moonlighting for commercial airlines. Last year, it ordered the court martial of two military pilots who were eventually found guilty of moonlighting and dismissed. Several others are under investigation.

According to published reports, at least 42 military pilots work for commercial airlines here and abroad, causing apprehensions that the Air Force was in danger of losing most of its trained pilots to the private sector.

In a message read for her by Defense Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane at the turnover ceremonies, President Macapagal-Arroyo said building up the capabilities of the Air Force was her "topmost priority."

Noting how the implementation of RA 9184, or the Government Procurement Reform Act, had caused delays in the acquisition of key equipment for the Armed Forces, the President assured the PAF that she was personally looking into the problem.

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FACULTY OF CIVIL LAW

2007 LAW ENTRANCE EXAMINATION (LEE)

The applicant must be a holder of a Bachelor of Arts or Science degree, or a candidate for graduation for such degree by March 2007, and must have earned the required units in English, Social Sciences and Mathematics.

Application Requirements:

1. College Transcript of Scholastic Records. However, if the applicant is graduating on March 2007, an official copy of temporary transcript containing college records from first year up to the first semester of the fourth year should be submitted instead;

2. Two (2) 2½" x 2½" colored ID pictures;

3. Two (2) Certificates of Good Moral Character with school seal:
a. For UST graduates, one of the certificates should come from the Office for the Student Affairs (OSA) and one from the Dean of the previous college;
b. For non-UST graduates, one from the Guidance office or its equivalent and one from the Dean of previous college;
c. Applicants who are working must submit an additional Certificate of Good Moral Character issued by the current employer.

4. Application and Testing fee; and

5. Duly accomplished application forms. The forms will be issued by the Dean's office only upon submission of ALL THE REQUIREMENTS.

Note: ALL requirements must be submitted one (1) week before the examination day

Application Schedule: Monday to Friday
9:00 am-12:00 nn; 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Examination Schedules: 8:00 am- 12:00 nn:
March 16, 2007, April 13, 2007 and May 4, 2007

Venue of Examination: Reading Room, Faculty of Civil Law, Ground Floor, UST Main Building.

FOR INQUIRIES: VISIT THE DEAN'S OFFICE OR LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE at www.ust.edu.ph, click on Academics or call 731-4027 or 4061611 local 8225.

Gov't holds off rescue ...

From page A1

Bacarro said.

He said Dolorfino had been in contact with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperon Jr. since Friday night to explain why he had not been able to return to Manila from his Jolo trip, as scheduled.

Dolorfino called Esperon again yesterday morning to explain the situation.

"General Dolorfino said they are physically okay," Bacarro said.

Navy spokesperson Cmdr. Giovanni Bacordo said they were satisfied at Dolorfino's assurance that he and his team had not been taken hostage.

On white alert

"There's no action because what is there to act on? They are there for the continuation of the peace talks," Bacordo said.

Bacarro said the AFP remained on "white alert" status—the lowest level of alert—but area commanders had the prerogative to raise the alert level in their areas of responsibility.

However, the Sulu-based Task Force Comet, in charge of the Jolo area, has been on red or full alert since August, when it intensified its pursuit operations against the Abu Sayyaf Group.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye refused to answer text messages or phone calls.

Only Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor talked to reporters and he admitted that there was no confirmation on the real status of the team Dolorfino and Undersecretary Ramon Santos.

In an interview on dzMM, Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process Jesus Dureza said that "*bihag* (captive) was not the right word" to describe the status of Dolorfino and Santos.

"We have sent emissaries inside to look at the actual situation. We are still awaiting ... and we expect them to come back by 3 o'clock," said Dureza, who said he was in Jolo.

He said that his team had been having difficulty making contact with Dolorfino's group because of poor communication signals.

Dureza refused to make any more comment.

"With due respect, the event is a sensitive matter, I am managing this situation here with the Armed Forces. If you will allow me, the only update we can make is that we have efforts (underway)," he said.

"We hope that by the end of the day we can send home our officials after we clarify from those inside (the rebel camp) the issues."

"We are waiting for feedback from emissaries we sent inside," Dureza added.

Misuari denies involvement

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno received assurances from MNLF leader Nur Misuari that he had nothing to do with the impasse in Jolo.

Puno met last night with Misuari at the house in New Manila, Quezon City where the latter was being held under house arrest to seek his help in communicating with his followers, who Puno believed might be suspecting that the government was reneging on its key commitments under their peace agreement.

"The commitments have been communicated but the MNLF commanders on the ground may have expected their immediate implementation. But these things take time," Puno said in an interview.

Offers to negotiate

Puno said that talks between the government and the MNLF on pursuing the peace process in Mindanao included a commitment from the National Security Council to work for the release of Misuari and compensation payments for MNLF communities caught in the middle of the conflict in the south.

"He (Misuari) told me that if the government wants, he can leave for Jolo and help clear the misunderstanding with the commanders on the ground," Puno said.

Puno maintained the government and the MNLF line that Dolorfino and the rest of the government panel were not being held hostage.

"They (the MNLF) thought that since things were not moving, things have fallen through," he said.

Puno said some of the commitments given to the MNLF had already been complied with.

He also said Misuari and the other leaders of the MNLF with whom Misuari had had a falling out had already conducted successful unification talks.

He said Misuari had already unified with the group that included Parouk Hussin and Muslimin Sema.

"Even the compensation payments have already started," Puno said.

Another excuse

Puno, however, said that the MNLF leaders "holding discussions" with Dolorfino in Jolo would have to let the general and the rest of the panel leave their camp soon.

"If General Dolorfino wants to leave, then they'd have to let him leave," he added.

Puno said he would still discuss with Misuari if there really was a need for him to leave for Sulu to help solve the standoff.

"(The commanders) might use it as another excuse to prolong the talks with the panel because their chairman is about to arrive," Puno said.

Palace orders review of RP jails security

MALACAÑANG HAS ORDERED A review of security measures in the country's jails to prevent another prison breakout even as reports said that extremists identified with the Jemaah Islamiyah regional terror group were planning to spring a jailed Indonesian bomb suspect from the South Cotabato jail.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said authorities were still verifying whether the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) had a hand in the armed attack last Friday on the North Cotabato provincial jail in Kidapawan which resulted in the escape of 48 inmates.

"The authorities are trying to determine if MILF members were involved and, if so, to employ all means within the [government-MILF] ceasefire agreement to bring to justice those who may have been involved," said Bunye.

At least three of the escapees are widely believed to be bomb experts affiliated with the MILF. The three—Mundos Kair, Sultan Datu Ali and Guindo Tokan—are suspects in the 2003 bombing of a bus terminal in Kidapawan.

Second look

The Department of Interior and Local Government will be taking "a second look" at security measures in all jails, particularly those in which terror suspects are detained, Bunye said.

Following the breakout, fighting in the North Cotabato town of Midsayap has flared up anew. Thousands of residents have been evacuated because of the ground and air assaults launched by the military against the rebels.

Only last Monday, the government and Muslim rebel group had reached an accord to end hostilities at Midsayap with the concurrence of an international ceasefire monitoring team.

In Koronadal; South Cotabato, Gov. Daisy Avance-Fuentes yesterday said there have been persistent reports that militants identified with the Indonesian-based JI were planning to spring Taufik Refke from the provincial jail.

Refke has been linked to various bombing incidents in the country, including the May 2003 market blast in Koronadal where nine people were killed and dozens injured.

Refke, who was arrested in October 2003, is considered a valuable witness in the government's antiterror campaign. He provided information about the alleged training of JI bombers inside the MILF's Mt. Cararao camp on the border of Shariff Kabunsuan and Lanao del Sur provinces.

Refke was also a close aide of the Indonesian bomb expert Fathur Rohman Al-Ghozi, who was killed during a shoot-out with police in North Cotabato.

Fuentes said the South Cotabato government has adopted tighter security measures in the jail after it received reports of the plan to spring Refke.

But unlike North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol who accused the MILF of being behind the North Cotabato jail raid, Fuentes said the group behind the plot to rescue Refke was identified with the JI.

According to Fuentes, provincial officials have been requesting the justice department to have Refke transferred to Manila but has not had any feedback.

"His presence in the province is too risky for us," she said.

Piñol earlier said that days before the Kidapawan raid, they had asked for the immediate transfer of suspected bombers Kair, Ali and Tokan.

"That's why I was asking the Department of Justice for the immediate transfer of high-profile inmates to Manila as a preventive measure. Now, it's too late," Piñol said.

According to Piñol, the manhunt for the escaped inmates continues and the bounty for their recapture increased to P25,000 each.

"We are also posting their pictures in conspicuous public places so our people can help to bring them back to jail," he said.

Piñol said 10 of the escaped inmates had been sighted in Matalam, some 14 kilometers from the provincial jail, though no arrest has yet been made.

Despite the MILF's denial that it had a hand in the raid, Piñol continues to blame the rebel group, urging its leaders to give up the escapees.

"I am challenging the MILF leadership, this is the right time to prove your sincerity in the peace process," he said in a radio interview.

MILF leaders yesterday warned that the allegations against them could further endanger the peace talks, which have been snagged over the issue of territory. The MILF is also being blamed for other incidents of violence in Central Mindanao.

Mohagher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, said the allegations were "inflammatory." *Gil C. Cabacungan in Metro Manila and Jeoffrey Maitem, Edwin Fernandez and Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

DOJ defends upgrade of Leviste case

By Leila B. Salaverria

A PROSECUTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF Justice yesterday said there was nothing irregular in his decision to upgrade to murder the homicide charge earlier filed against former Batangas governor Jose Antonio Leviste in just two days.

Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco had recommended that Leviste, along with John and Jane Does, be charged with murder for the killing of Leviste's long-time aide Rafael De las Alas, citing treachery, cruelty and premeditation in the killing.

But Leviste's counsel Manuel Singson decried the "indecent haste" in which Velasco issued the ruling, pointing out that the prosecutor had asked for a 30-day period to conduct his reinvestigation after initially being given 15 days to complete it.

Velasco yesterday said he had asked for the extension, but claimed it was because he thought Leviste would cooperate in the reinvestigation.

Nothing irregular

"There was nothing irregular in my action. I asked the court for 30 days thinking that they will participate. But they acted in bad faith and they are like spoiled brats," he said.

Velasco also said that he was not required to make use of the whole 30-day period in conducting his reinvestigation.

"There is no law whatsoever prohibiting us from doing our work promptly," he added.

De las Alas was shot dead inside Leviste's office at the LPL Towers in Makati City on Jan. 12. Leviste owned up to the killing, claiming self-defense. The state prosecutor which initially handled the case recommended that Leviste be charged with homicide, drawing protests from the camp of the victim.

A reinvestigation of Leviste's case was ordered. It began on Jan. 31 at 2 p.m.

Velasco came out with resolution on the morning of Feb. 2.

Leviste's lawyers had attended the reinvestigation but refused to participate in the proceeding they called "illegal" and a "farce" because it was not the proper procedure that De las Alas' family should have followed if they question the homicide charge.

Singson accused Velasco of prejudging the case, adding that he was contemplating of filing an administrative case against the public prosecutor.

Singson also said the timing of the resolution's issuance was meant to preempt Leviste's petition before the Court of Appeals to stop the reinvestigation.

In his petition filed on Feb. 1, Leviste asked the appellate court to stop Velasco's reinvestigation of the case, to enjoin the Makati City Regional Trial Court from acting on Velasco's recommendation and to order his arraignment for homicide.

Leviste also said that Velasco and his superior, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, had prejudged the case based on their public pronouncements, adding that the latter had acted as both prosecutor and judge.

Abraham Dingle; 75

VETERAN JOURNALIST ABRAHAM "ABE" A. Dingle, who, until he had to take a sick leave last year, was the World News editor of The Times, died on Friday afternoon at the New Era Medical Center in Quezon City. He was 75.

Confined at New Era, he had a massive heart attack on Thursday.

He began his journalistic career as a sports writer and rose to sports editor. He then moved on to hold various senior editing jobs in Manila and abroad.

He was with the Philippines Herald from 1960 to 1964, with the Bangkok Post from 1965-1967 and with the Hong Kong Standard from 1967 to 1981. In Hong Kong he had a second job as a news editor for Hong Kong TVB network.

He also had stints as a deskman for the Manila Chronicle, Today, and the Philippine Post. He was briefly the Department of Tourism's public information officer in 1997.

He is survived by his wife Melissa Ma Dingle and 12-year-old son, Alexander.

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Blast from past: Killing of Gens. Batalla ...

From page A1

tained—himself in Camp Crame and the rest in Zamboanga City.

An angered Alih drew his firearm and a brief firefight ensued, leading to the hostage-taking.

Members of the Marine Corps subsequently surrounded the area, but Alih, shouting over a megaphone, threatened to kill the hostages if government troops attacked.

2 more demands

He demanded to talk with then Sen. Santanina Rasul, a relative of his, and then Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos.

Ramos refused to go.

At around 7 p.m., Rasul and then Speaker Ramon Mitra arrived at the Recom-9 headquarters to negotiate for the release of the hostages.

Mitra offered to take Alih under his protective custody in Palawan.

But Alih laid down two more demands—two helicopters to fly him and his men out of the country and the immediate removal of all Christian soldiers from the area.

The military formed an assault team with Brig. Gen. Braulio Balbas as commander. Balbas ordered that the area be cordoned off, and gave Alih until 1 a.m. of the next day to resume negotiations.

By this time, a big number of armed Moro soldiers had slipped into the camp and joined the hostage-takers.

Blood

Alih called for another meeting with Mitra and Rasul. After hours of negotiations, he agreed to release the hostages at 3 a.m.

But when Mitra emerged, he said he had seen blood leading to the bathroom where Batalla was being held. He said he had insisted on seeing the hostage and was not allowed to do so.

Balbas also asked to see Batalla, but at 7 a.m. the next day, the request had yet to be granted.

In the afternoon, the military announced that the government was sticking to Mitra's offer. But Alih threatened to kill the hostages if no fresh negotiation was held by 4 p.m.

Alih's failure to show Batalla shortly after 4 p.m. heightened speculation that the general had been killed, prompting military troops to launch an attack.

The exchange of gunfire lasted for four hours.

Another attack was mounted eight hours later, and the battle raged through the night until the next morning.

When the smoke cleared, 19 people were found dead.

There was no official identification of the charred or mutilated bodies. But the remains of Batalla and Abendan were later recovered.

The military also announced that seven of the hostage-takers were among the dead.

Alih, however, managed to escape and to slip out of the country and into Malaysia.

In 1994, he was arrested and jailed in Malaysia for illegal possession of high-powered firearms.

In January 2006, after serving eight years in prison, Alih was deported back to the Philippines, where he now faces murder charges for the 1989 siege.

Treachery in peace dialogue

Another instance also ended in bloodshed and death.

In the early morning of Oct. 10, 1977, Brig. Gen. Teodulfo Bautista and 34 officers and men, including five colonels, went to a tiny marketplace in Patikul, Sulu, for a peace dialogue with Usman Sali, then said to be the province's most powerful leader.

Sali, a local chieftain of the separatist Moro National Liberation Front that would sign a peace agreement with the government more than a decade later, had been pushing for autonomy in Mindanao for five years.

But he invited Bautista and his group for a peace dialogue that could lead to the enforcement of a ceasefire.

The invitation suggested that Sali and his men were willing to join the government side.

According to accounts, Bautista was being greeted by a smiling Sali when a voice was heard shouting, "*Dapa* (Drop to the ground)!"

As Sali did so, about 150 MNLF troops showed up and opened fire at the visitors.

Bautista and his men were killed immediately.

Sali was reported to have fled to Sabah. He has yet to be brought to justice.

LATE BREAKER

Hostages may be released today

MORO REBELS HOLDING BRIG. GEN. Benjamin Dolorfino and members of his peace mission have agreed to release their hostages today.

Dolorfino said last night this was agreed on between Presidential Peace Adviser Jesus Dureza and the Moro group led by Ustadz Habier Malik.

"We can breathe easier now that we can go home," Dolorfino told the INQUIRER.

He said Malik agreed to release them after receiving assurances from the Organization of Islamic Conference that the planned meeting between the OIC, the Philippines and the Moro National Liberation Front to discuss the implemenation of the RP-MNLF peace agreement would push through in March. The MNLF expects its detained leader, Nur Misuari, to head its delegation to the talks planned to be held in Saudi Arabia.

Julie S. Alipala

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General held

From page A1

A MESSAGE FROM MISUARI in 2005, was personally delivered by Dolorfino (left) to Habier Malik (center) and Julhambri Misuar at the MNLF camp in Panamao, Jolo. Misuari was then detained at Sta. Rosa, Laguna for rebellion. In the letter, the MNLF chair instructed his followers to give safe conduct passes to the Americans while conducting their Balikatan humanitarian program. TROY MALCOLM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

Detained with Dolorfino and Santos were two colonels, a junior officer, nine enlisted personnel and several members of Santos' staff.

Presidential Adviser on Peace Process Jesus Dureza, who immediately flew to Jolo to talk with the MILF, said Dolorfino's group comprised 15 people, the same number given by the military.

Amilbahar Amilasan, an undersecretary at Dureza's office, assured that "Malacañang is on top of the situation right now."

"We are working closely now and we are taking the demands very seriously, yet we still have to validate everything," he added.

Demands

"Confirmed *na* hostage *sila* (It is confirmed they have been taken hostage)," Gov. Loong said by phone. "Let's hope we can get them back safe and sound."

Loong said the group was told that they could not leave the camp "unless they are fetched by Nur Misuari." Loong was referring to the MILF chairman who is detained by the government on rebellion charges.

Loong said that based on what he had gathered, the MILF group holding Dolorfino—headed by Ustadz Habiet Malik—wanted Misuari freed and was questioning why the proposed tripartite meeting among the government, the MILF and the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) hadn't pushed through.

Another Sulu leader, Amina Rasul, said the Jolo incident may have been triggered by a report that the OIC might pull out of the tripartite talks.

The meeting is supposed to thresh out problems hindering implementation of the 1996 peace pact.

The rebels also want Misuari to head the MILF delegation to those talks, proposed to be held in an Islamic country.

Confirms hostage situation

"I feel sad with the turn of events, I knew that Dolorfino and Malik managed to establish good relationship. We didn't expect this to happen," Loong told the INQUIRER.

Abdurahman Jamasali, head of the MNLF panel monitoring the peace agreement and a member of Dolorfino's group that went to the MNLF camp, also confirmed the group had been taken hostage.

"*Na-hostage kami dito ngayon pero okay naman kami* (We were taken hostage here but we are okay)," Jamasali told the INQUIRER.

'We are guests'

But interviewed later on television, Jamasali denied the group had been taken captive and said they were in the rebel camp to conduct a seminar on the peace process for the MILF members.

Dolorfino, who also uses the name Ben Muhammad, also denied in interviews that he and his group had been taken captive.

"We are not hostages ... We are being treated as guests," he said. He denied reports that his men had been disarmed by MNLF fighters.

Asked why they were staying in the camp, he said: "We just can't force our way out and leave. So we have cooperated with them."

Like brothers in Baguio

He claimed his men were freely mingling with the MILF fighters in the camp.

Ustadz Malik said the families of Dolorfino and the others should not worry about their condition.

"We treat them like brothers," he said on ANC television, apparently speaking from the MNLF camp. "They are in a guesthouse with a toilet. No one disturbs them. It is like Baguio here."

Malik said the group was also being allowed to eat "whatever they want" and that it was he himself who had served them food.

For last night's dinner, Malik said he was preparing *tinolang manok* (chicken in a broth) for the group.

Dureza said last night he was seeking an early way out of the stalemate.

"Hopefully, we can arrive at an early resolution," Dureza said in a telephone interview from Jolo.

Dureza also said an estimated 15 persons were being held with Dolorfino and Santos.

"That's subject to validation. Until we make a headcount, we cannot give a number," Dureza said.

He said he was able to talk with "one of them," apparently referring to a member of Dolorfino's group.

Two colonels

Military reports said that among the group detained by the MILF were Task Force Comet deputy commander Col. Demetrio Ramon and retired Col. Cipriano Bayang.

Based on sketchy reports from the ground, also in the group were an officer named Colonel Baboon, a junior officer, Carol Latorre and other staffmembers of Santos, three escorts from the Philippine Marines, two Army soldiers and Hajie Hatae, driver of Loong.

An INQUIRER informant said the team of Dolorfino had been held hostage since 2 p.m. Friday and that one member of the group had been released, identified as Dr. Samsula Adju, a university professor.

Against their will

Jolo Councilor Temojen Tulawie, who went with members of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (a Geneva-based monitoring group) to Barangay Bitanag, where the MNLF camp is located, confirmed that Dolorfino's group was being held against their will.

Dolorfino used a cellular phone number different from what he normally used when he called the INQUIRER at about 12:41 p.m. to clarify reports about his group's situation.

He said they had been prevented from leaving the camp "because they would like to settle issues with the government and with the OIC."

But when asked what these issues were, Dolorfino said he was not authorized to reveal them.

"It is hard to speak ahead of the government," he said. "I cannot give a statement, I am not at liberty to take that up. It's a policy matter."

"We cannot leave the place right now until matters have been settled," he added. "We are here as leverage. The ball is with the GRP (Government of the Republic of the Philippines) and the OIC. We are being used just as a leverage."

Dolorfino said none of his military escorts had been disarmed.

"They are all here socializing with the MNLF rebels," he said.

Moro rebel groups in the southern Philippines have taken hostage scores of people, including soldiers, in their struggle for self-rule.

With a report from Fe Zamora

Misuari to run in May polls

TALKS ARE UNDERWAY FOR detained Muslim leader Nur Misuari to run for an elective post in Sulu in the upcoming May polls under the pro-administration party Kampi, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno said last night.

Misuari, under house arrest while facing rebellion charges in connection with an uprising staged by his followers in 2001, was recently allowed to travel to Sulu to register as a voter.

"If Nur Misuari will run under Kampi, it will be based on issues of peace and development in Mindanao," said Puno, who is recognized as the party's leader.

Puno did not say what position the chairman of the Moro National Liberation Front would aspire for. *Norman Bordadora*

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Lawyers resigned to Erap's fate

By Norman Bordadora

IN HIS FINAL STATEMENT TO THE Sandiganbayan before the antigraft court decides the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada, lawyer Rene Saguisag set out the strengths of the defense panel's case for the ex-president.

However, it also appears to have conceded Estrada's fate.

Replying to the prosecution's comments on the defense panel's formal offer of evidence, Saguisag said the Special Division trying Estrada risked going against the Supreme Court if it were to find the disgraced leader innocent of the charges.

According to Saguisag, the Special Division especially created to try the Estrada plunder case cannot presume to correct the allegedly "erroneous factual premise" of the Supreme Court decision in 2001 when the high court decided that the then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo could succeed as president as Estrada was deemed to have "constructively resigned."

The ponente (author) of the decision was the then Associate Justice, now Chief Justice, Reynato Puno.

"We can only win at the risk of a lower tribunal … correcting a higher one whose principal actor is still there, admired by many … save for that devastating and cruel aberration in 2001," Saguisag said.

If Estrada does not prevail in this case, Estrada would be shown in history to have been ousted for "perceived plunder," the lawyer said.

"How can any lower tribunal presume, after all the evidence is in, to say the Supreme Court erred in its decision?" he added.

Saguisag claimed that the Estrada defense team had already established that there was no case of plunder as there was allegedly no proof that the billions of pesos that Estrada allegedly plundered came from "jueteng," the illegal numbers game.

"The plunder law requires proof of source and the state has not shown this. Tendentious newspaper reports and coffeeshop scuttlebutt or *tsismis* [gossip] cannot replace evidence in court," Saguisag said.

He claimed that the defense had also debunked the testimony of whistle-blower Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson that P130 million was delivered to Estrada's Polk Street residence by Estrada's gambling buddy, Charlie "Atong" Ang, a coaccused in the plunder case.

"This honorable court knows its place. Yet, justice must be done to Estrada, even if the heavens fall. The truth in a political context is one thing … The truth in a criminal case involving initially the death penalty is another," Saguisag said.

SOLID NORTH FOR CHAVIT

Chavit Singson, Ilocos Sur governor is endorsed by the Northern Luzon Alliance led by Speaker Jose de Venecia (left) of the 13th Congress for inclusion in administration's lineup of official Senate candidates in the 2007 elections.

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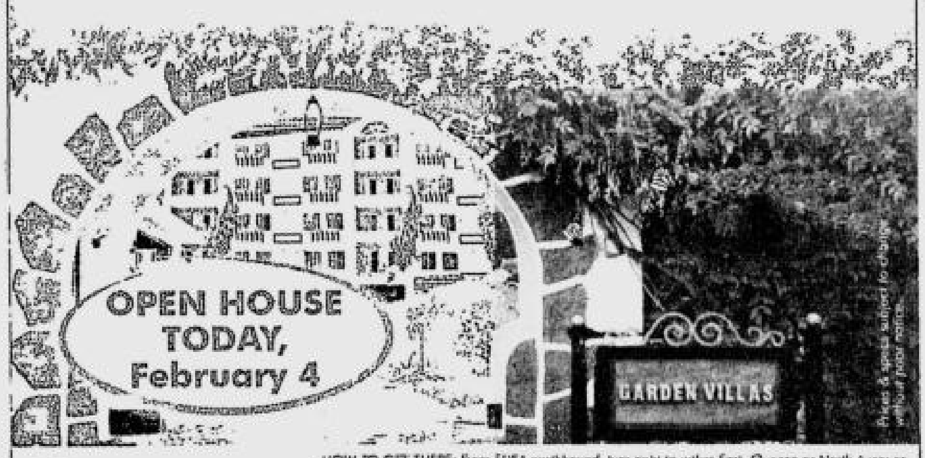

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A year later, 'Wowowee' victims still suffer

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

TIME HAS FAILED TO HEAL their wounds.

Rizaldy Javierto, who lost his mother and sister during the tragic stampede that marred the anniversary celebration of the noontime game show "Wowowee" at the Philsports Arena in Pasig City exactly one year ago, said he tries to avoid watching television now.

"The moment I see (TV game show host Willie) Revillame and the program Wowowee, I get upset and angry. They should have axed the show because many people are still hurt by what happened," the 44-year-old Javierto said in Filipino.

Now more than ever, said Javierto, he misses his mother Virginia, one of 71 people who died when a crowd estimated between 40-50,000 pushed and shoved their way through a railed pathway to get first crack at the show's game prizes—advertised to be worth up to P4 million. His sister Josephine, who accompanied their 81-year-old mother, also died. Investigators said the show producers and police should have done more to control the crowd.

"She was a loving mother and a good provider. Now that she is gone, our family cannot make ends meet," Javierto told the INQUIRER.

The family's dependence on the extra support given by Virginia to her 12 children is in fact felt more acutely as time goes by.

The widow of a US Army veteran, Virginia used to receive a monthly pension of about P60,000 from the US government. She would split the money with her 12 children, most of them poor and struggling to raise their own families. Part of her pension also used to go to the medication of their 35-year-old brother, who is mentally ill, Javierto said.

Water and electricity connections to the family compound in Barangay Bagong Barrio in Caloocan City has already been disconnected because of nonpayment, he said.

During the wake of Javierto's mother and sister, the ABS-CBN management gave them P80,000 and a box of grocery items.

Some affected families have accepted their fate and are thankful for the financial assistance. "It was an accident," one post-mortem quoted Gina Villegas of Antipolo as saying. She survived but lost her best friend.

But Javierto thinks the assistance given is not enough.

"We want the court to decide how much they should pay us. We want charges to be filed against ABS-CBN officials," he added.

Javierto told the National Bureau of Investigation the television network should pay their family at least P1 million.

The family is also pursuing another court battle to claim P49,000 cash that rescuers had recovered from the stampede scene, but which they say was returned to the wrong family.

Javierto is now among the coordinators of a group of victims and survivors being assisted by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption (VACC) in pursuing the case against ABS-CBN officials. Their group scheduled a prayer vigil starting yesterday night until this evening.

"And how about those who were injured?" asked 31-year-old Elizabeth Almatosa.

"They (ABS-CBN) should not only help the families of those who were killed. They should also help people like me who were injured," she had said during one rally last year.

ABS-CBN APPROACH

'We want to teach them how to fish'

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

CALUAG

RYAN LIM

FATHER CARMELO "TITO" CALUAG III WAS dressing up for a seminar when he heard the news on TV on that Feb. 4 morning.

"I thought it was a rather morbid plug for 'Wowowee,'" said Fr. Caluag, recalling how he learned of the stampede that killed 71 at the PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra).

As an independent board member of the ABS-CBN network that produced the game show, he was tapped to say Mass the following morning in the Wowowee studio.

"In the opening of my homily, I mentioned the INQUIRER headline: '74 dreams crushed.'"

Fr. Caluag later cautioned the people who attended the Mass, which included network officials (chief executive officer Gabby Lopez and channel head Charo Santos) and its biggest stars (Dolphy, Maricel Soriano): "These dreams will be crushed, if we don't make the right choices … "

After the Mass, Lopez broached to Fr. Caluag the possibility of putting up a foundation that eventually became known as 71 Dreams, named after the confirmed fatalities in the stampede.

Foundation's philosophy

As early as then, Lopez was unequivocal about the foundation's philosophy: "He said that he wanted a foundation that will encourage people to be self-sufficient," recounted Fr. Caluag, who's now the managing director of the 71 Dreams Foundation.

The goal, the priest explained, "is to forge a partnership with the victims' families. We don't want to dole out [money]."

He pointed out that the foundation is founded on the Chinese proverb: "Give man a fish and he will eat for a day; teach him how to fish and he will eat for a lifetime."

As a result of this philosophy, he admitted, they received criticism, some coming from victims' families who participated in a rally at the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) on Jan. 22.

"They said that we didn't fulfill our promises to them. In the first place, we didn't promise material benefits. We only said that *sasabayan namin sila* (we will be with them every step of the way). We will support them. *Pero sariling sikap*. (They have to help themselves.)"

This is because the foundation wants to debunk charges that it is promoting a "culture of mendicancy," the priest said.

This is seconded by Wowowee host Willie Revillame: "*Ginagawa raw naming tamad ang mga tao*. (They say we are making people lazy.) That's not true. We only want to help people."

Skills training

Fr. Caluag explained that each claimant has to go through a process: "Once they are ready, they can avail of skills training or *puhunan* (start-up capital) for their livelihood."

According to the priest, 34 families have already enrolled in livelihood programs like running *sari-sari* stores and cellphone repair shops.

Jimmy Tan, who lost mother Ligaya in the stampede, now runs a cellphone repair shop in Atimonan, Quezon province. He said he is persevering, "even though our province suffered from three typhoons."

Porfiro Bergado, whose wife Lolita died in the tragedy, now operates a tricycle in Metro Manila. He is not embarrassed to admit that he was at the rally in the NBI headquarters. It was just a miscommunication, Bergado said. "I have no complaints."

Fr. Calauag insisted that he doesn't mind having critics. "I want to listen to them because they can help us adjust our programs. They can help us understand the families we are working with."

He said that some families have yet to receive benefits, because they haven't complied with "the process … They want fish, but what we are offering is fishing skills."

GMA defends move to take in Sotto, Oreta

By Gil C. Cabacungan, Jr.

DESPITE GRUMBLINGS FROM HER ALLIES, President Macapagal-Arroyo has justified her plan to take in opposition candidates, specifically former Senators Vicente "Tito" Sotto III and Tessie Aquino-Oreta, in her Team Unity senatorial team for the coming May elections.

At a dinner meeting she tendered for the country's governors at the Palace on Friday, the President said she would rather have former opposition Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago who has been one of her staunchest defenders than allies like Sen. Pia Cayetano who abandoned her after helping them win.

Members of the League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP) led by its chair Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson had told the President of the grumblings from her allies over the inclusion of Sotto and Oreta in Team Unity.

Proud of her decision

LPP spokesperson Eastern Samar Gov. Benjamin Evardone said the President assuaged the governors' reservations by citing her decision to take in Santiago in the K-4 senatorial team in the 2004 elections despite protests from her allies because of the feisty lawmaker's links to former President Joseph Estrada.

Evardone said the President was proud of her decision considering that Defensor had become her key defender in the Senate.

Evardone said the President contrasted Santiago with Cayetano whom the administration agreed to help in the 2004 elections largely because of her late father's long history with the ruling Lakas-CMD party which began during the Ramos years.

Evardone said the President noted that Cayetano's case showed that party affiliation was no guarantee that a candidate, after winning the polls, would remain loyal to the administration. "Where is Pia now?" the President asked, according to Evardone.

Cayetano's brother, Rep. Alan Peter, is the most vocal critic of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo whom the lawmaker has accused of allegedly stashing ill-gotten wealth in a German bank.

During the meeting, Evardone said the President reaffirmed her commitment to support her allies in the local government elections.

Standing by her side

But the President asked the governors to ensure that the administration should only have one candidate in each area and that the equity of the incumbent should be respected, Evardone said.

In case of conflict, Evardone said this would be settled through arbitration by members of the coalition.

The President also addressed the concern of governors over the rising number of suspension being carried out against local government officials in the run-up to the May elections.

She has agreed to consider the proposal of the governors to first notify their group before implementing any suspension or dismissal order to prevent a repeat of the Iloilo incident where the Arroyo administration was faulted for "overkill" in carrying out the ejection of the incumbent official.

Evardone said the President was very attentive to the governors that night as she gladly met individual members, including those dismissed from office, to personally address their gripes.

Evardone said the President also expressed her gratitude to the governors for standing by her administration at the height of the political crisis spawned by accusations that she stole the May 2004 elections.

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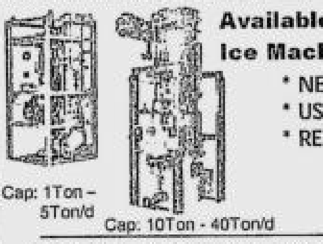

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SC frees cop, orders new probe

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE SUPREME COURT LET A Manila policeman walk free after he languished in jail for nearly five years while the charges brought against him for drug possession and illegal possession of firearms were being reinvestigated.

In releasing him, the tribunal upheld an earlier Court of Appeals ruling, saying the right of SP04 Emiliano Anonas to due process and a speedy trial was violated by the delay in the resolution of the reinvestigation.

The court attributed the delay to the failure of public prosecutors to comply with the law.

"There can be no question that respondent was prejudiced by the delay, having to be confined for more than four oppressive years for failure of the investigating prosecutors to comply with the law on preliminary investigation. As aptly held by the Court of Appeals, respondent's right to due process had been violated," the Supreme Court said in a Jan. 31 decision.

Anonas was arrested during a raid in Sta. Mesa, Manila in November 1996 and subsequently charged with illegal drug possession and illegal possession of firearm and jailed.

In December that same year, Anonas filed a motion for reinvestigation before a Manila Regional Trial Court, saying he was arrested without a warrant and that no preliminary investigation of his case was conducted.

The Manila RTC granted his motion in January 1997. However, prosecutor Virgilio Patag, who was assigned to conduct the reinvestigation, was appointed judge in an Iloilo court in April 1998.

The SC said Patag failed to inform the prosecutor who replaced him about the pending reinvestigation.

Meanwhile, Anonas remained in jail.

In January 2001, Anonas sought to dismiss the information filed against him, saying his right to due process was violated.

Prosecutor Danilo Formoso, who took over the policeman's case, said he was unaware of the pending reinvestigation and was given 30 days to terminate it. After his reinvestigation, Formoso sustained the allegations in the information against Anonas.

Anonas appealed the prosecutor's finding but his petition was denied by the Manila RTC. He then went to the CA, saying the Manila court committed grave abuse of discretion in denying his motion.

The CA granted Anonas' petition, saying the Manila policeman's right to due process was violated when he was jailed for more than four years, and ordered his release from custody.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, February 4, 2007
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Isaiah 6:1-2, 3-8**

Here I am! Send me.

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted; the train of his robe filled the Temple. Above him were seraphs, each with six wings: two to cover the face, two to cover the feet, and two to fly with.

They were calling to one another:
"Holy, holy, holy is Yahweh Sabaoth.
All the earth is filled with his Glory!"

At the sound of their voices the foundations of the threshold shook and the Temple was filled with smoke. I said, "Poor me! I am doomed! For I am a man of unclean lips living among a people of unclean lips, and yet I have seen the King, Yahweh Sabaoth."

Then one of the seraphs flew to me; in his hands was a live coal which he had taken with tongs from the altar. He touched my mouth with it and said,

"See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

Then I heard the voice of the Lord, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" I answered, "Here I am. Send me!"

2nd Reading: **1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (or 15:3-8, 11)**

So we preached and so you believe

Let me remind you, brothers and sisters, of the Good News that I preached to you and which you received and on which you stand firm. By that Gospel you are saved, provided that you hold to it as I preached it. Otherwise, you will have believed in vain.

In the first place, I have passed on to you what I myself received: that Christ died for our sins, as Scripture says; that he was buried; that he was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures; that he appeared to Cephas and then to the Twelve. Afterwards he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters together; most of them are still alive, although some have already gone to rest. Then he appeared to James and after that to all the apostles. And last of all, he appeared to the most despicable of them, this is to me. For I am the last of the apostles, and I do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the Church of God. Nevertheless, by the grace of God, I am what I am, and his grace towards me has not been without fruit. Far from it, I have toiled more than all of them, although not I, rather the grace of God in me.

Now, whether it was I or they, this we preach and this you have believed.

Gospel: **Luke 5:1-11**

They left everything and followed Jesus.

One day, as Jesus stood by the Lake of Gennesaret, with a crowd gathered around him listening to the word of God, he caught sight of two boats left at the water's edge by the fishermen now washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to pull out a little from the shore. There he sat and continued to teach the crowd.

When he had finished speaking he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon replied, "Master, we worked hard all night and caught nothing. But if you say so, I will lower the nets." This they did and caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break. They signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came and filled both boats almost to the point of sinking.

Upon seeing this, Simon Peter fell at Jesus' knees, saying, "Leave me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For he and his companions were amazed at the catch they had made and so were Simon's partners, James and John, Zebedee's sons.

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. You will catch people from now on." So they brought their boats to land and followed him, leaving everything.

Commentary

Isaiah meets the Holy One in the temple and knows his own sinfulness. Yet he is seared with coals and his mouth is purged of wickedness. And in response to God's cry: "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" he responds boldly: "Here I am, send me." And Isaiah goes forth. Paul reminds us that he has gone forth to preach the gospel that is saving us even now and that he hands on to us what he received. By God's favor, we are all what we are—what we are called to be by God to preach, each in our own time.

Jesus teaches by the lake then goes into one of the boats moored there (Peter's) and orders Peter to cast out—out in the deep—and let down the nets for a catch. They had fished all night and caught nothing (they fished trawling along the shore, afraid of the deep—they could not swim). Simon is afraid, but he obeys and they make a great catch. The first to be caught is Peter, falling on his knees, knowing he too is not worthy to be in the presence of Jesus. But all of them (and us) are told, "Do not be afraid, for now on you will be catching men and women." They left everything and became his followers. We too have been called. How are we doing with the catch? Have we left everything and become followers? Who do we preach to, with?

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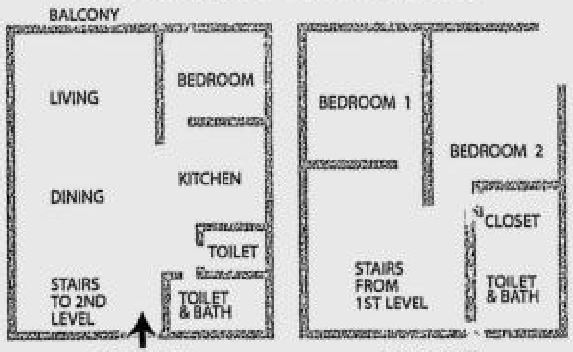

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Letting the light shine

MESSAGES

GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President of the Philippines

Greetings to the officers and members of St. Theresa's College Batch 1982 as you celebrate your silver jubilee.

Your institution deserves to be commended for being one of the most prestigious schools in the Philippines. For decades, St. Theresa's College Manila, Quezon City, Cebu City and Baguio City have achieved the distinct honor of having provided quality education to thousands of successful graduates, all of whom are now productive and responsible citizens of our country.

May this event inspire all your members to continue to be involved in projects that will improve your school and the quality of education in our country. For in doing so, you help build the foundation for a better future for our people and our nation.

May you have a successful celebration and *mabuhay!*

Gloria Arroyo

NOLI "KABAYAN" DE CASTRO
Vice President of the Philippines

Let me warmly greet you on your silver alumnae homecoming.

The event is a great opportunity to reconnect with your classmates and friends. Likewise, it allows your alumnae to reestablish and uphold the vision and ideals which your alma mater has instilled in you. I exhort you to devote yourselves to the pursuit of projects and activities which will serve not only your alma mater but also the society as a whole.

Likewise, I am pleased that you promote and strengthen the values of gratitude and sharing by gathering alumnae, *kababayan* and their families, from around the world in this event. St. Theresa's College has molded productive members of our society and trained leaders now engaged in developing their communities. Thus, your college continues to be the school of choice for parents who would like to give the best training and education to their daughters.

Your alma mater is transforming itself in many positive ways. New facilities, new energy and a new spirit of collaboration that highlight the Theresian prestige. As you hold your homecoming, be steadfast in pursuing projects and activities in your commitment to take part in the economic and social development of the Philippines.

Congratulations and my wishes for the success of St. Theresa's College!
Mabuhay kayong lahat!

CORAZON C. AQUINO
President of the Philippines, 1986-1992

Congratulations to St. Theresa's College High School Class of 1982 on its silver jubilee and to the hardworking organizers of the silver anniversary celebration.

Our family has been associated with St. Theresa's College for quite some time. My older brother, Pedro Cojuangco, and older sister, Josephine C. Reyes, both attended kindergarten under Mother Redempta. My younger sister, Paz C. Teopaco, was at STC for her junior year in college. It was my mother's sister, Belen Sumulong Bautista, who was a student at STC for the longest time.

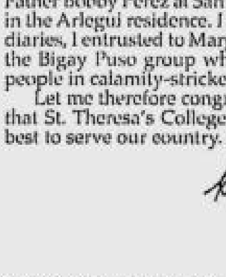
My own personal experience with Theresians and the ICM Sisters like Sr. Iluminada Torres, Sr. Jose Bagtas, Sr. Helen Rivera and Sr. Consuelo Varela has led me to marvel at the courage and commitment of Theresians to freedom and human rights.

During martial law, when so many Filipinos were in fear of the dictator and did not want to have anything to do with Ninoy Aquino and his family, these four ICM sisters were bravely mimeographing my husband Ninoy's statements before the military commission. At that time, it was considered a crime to say or write anything against the dictatorship. If the sisters had been caught mimeographing or even transporting and distributing Ninoy's statements, they could have been arrested and detained.

My Presidential Appointments Secretary, Margarita (Margie) Penson Juico, a dyed-in-the-wool Theresian, has served the country and me with courage and dedication. During the bloodiest coup attempt during my presidency, Margie opted to be in Malacañang. At my request, she walked and fetched Father Bobby Perez at San Beda College so he could bless me and my children in the Arlegui residence. I also entrusted Ninoy's diaries to him; and my own diaries, I entrusted to Margie. Throughout my presidency, Margie was part of the Bigay Puso group which I had tasked to distribute relief goods to our people in calamity-stricken areas.

Let me therefore congratulate the silver jubilarians and express the hope that St. Theresa's College will continue to inspire its students to give their best to serve our country. *Mabuhay ang mga Theresians!*

Corazon C. Aquino



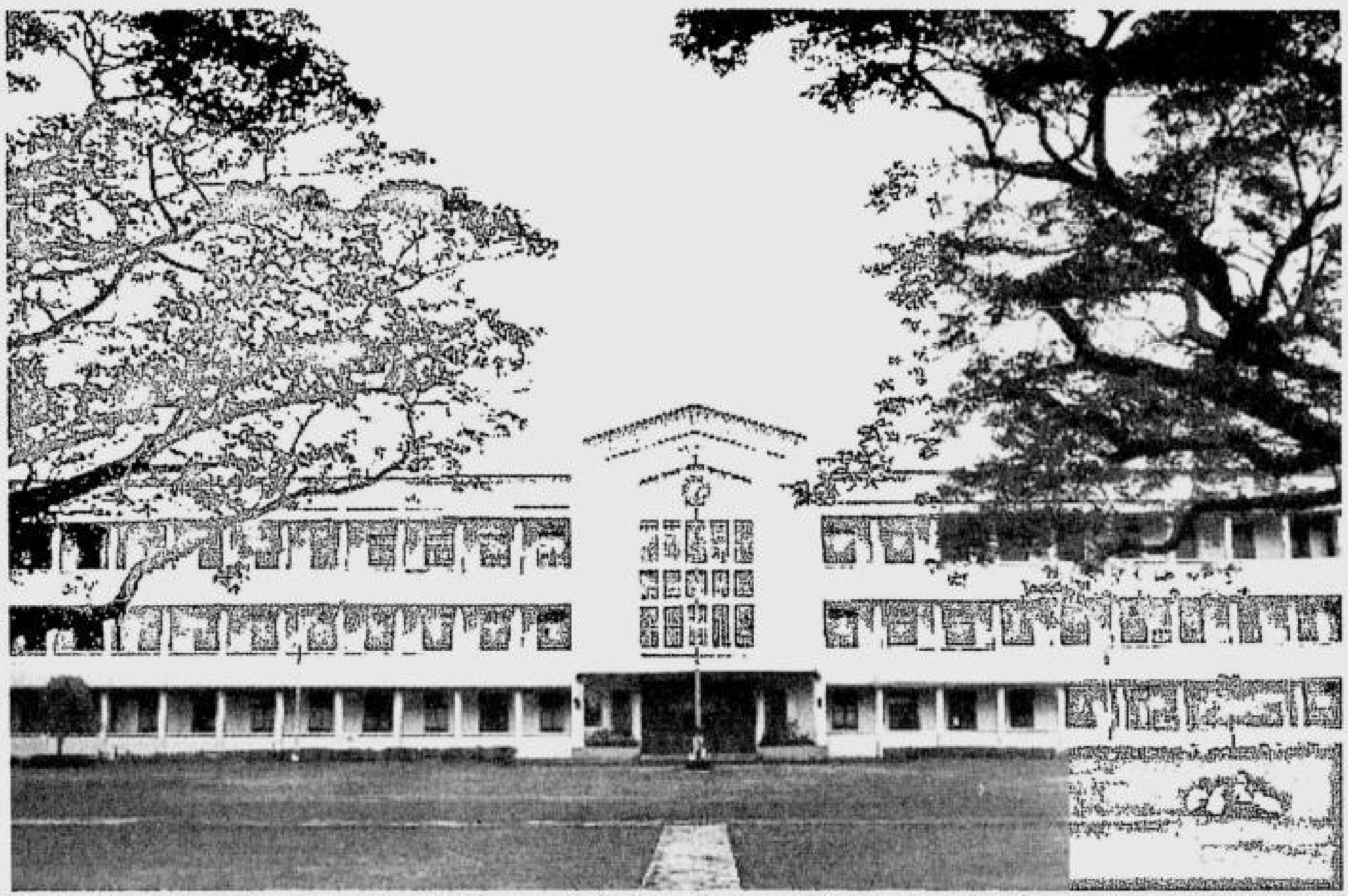
JESLI A. LAPUS
Secretary, Department of Education

The Department of Education would like to congratulate the graduates, faculty, members, and administrators of St. Theresa's College of Quezon City Batch 1982 on its silver alumnae homecoming.

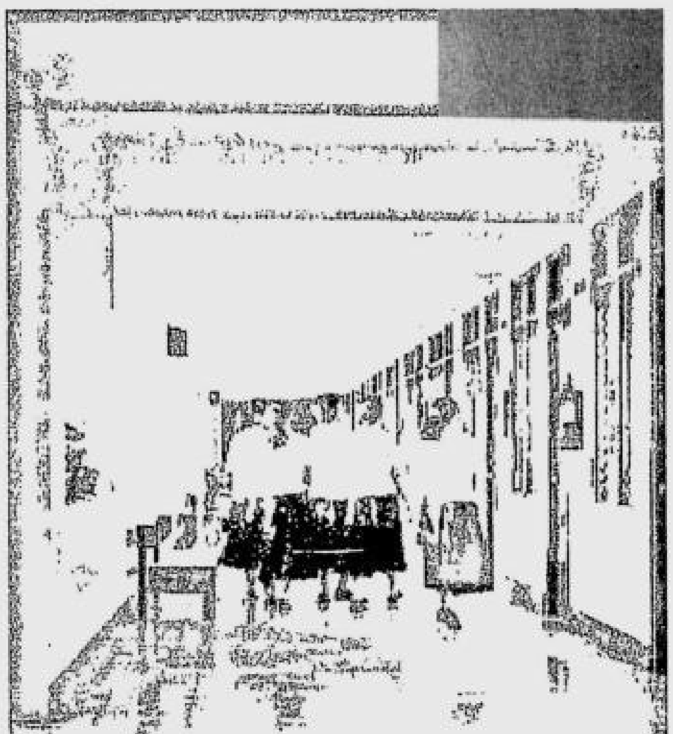
"The past is a source of knowledge, and the future is a source of hope." That sentiment perfectly describes your gathering. No matter where you live or how long it's been since your student days, you remain an important part of St. Theresa's College.

The success of an institution can be measured through the success of its graduates. Indeed, your alma mater has fulfilled its part in transforming each and everyone of you into responsible, successful, and law-abiding citizens.

The Department of Education shares in the honor and pride of your school's outstanding graduates and achievements. I hope that through St. Theresa's College, we will continues to produce dynamic and productive citizens of this country.



Home of women achievers: The St. Theresa's College Quezon City grade school building is in a five-block campus that remains one of the most beautiful in the country.



Do you remember?: That blue and white uniform, those corridors at STC QC's high school building.

Virtute, Scientia, Artibus, Floreat — Education in and through Virtue, Science and Art." This is the Theresian motto.

Not too long ago, St. Theresa's College became famous for producing some of the brightest among the students of all-women educational institutions. More than the stereotypical *colegiala* ripe for marriage and domesticity, Theresians were generally considered the girls with the brains and the social conscience.

The reputation is well deserved. Through the years, since the founding of St. Theresa's College in San Marcelino in 1915 — followed by three other schools in Quezon City in 1947, Cebu in 1937 and Baguio in1953 — the Belgian-run STC has produced outstanding women who have proven successful in their professions and who have given back to society.

The Theresians are who they are today because of education founded on knowledge and skill, simplicity, religion and practical application. And if they have stood out, it is but a fulfilment of their rallying cry, "Let your light shine."

MOTHER MARIE ARRIVES

Theresian education in the Philippines started with the arrival of Mother Marie Louise de Meester, founder of the Religious Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM) in the Philippines.

At 22, she joined the Canonesses of St. Augustine in Leper, Belgium as a talented young lady with a love for the missions. Originally named Maria, she received the religious name Dame Marie Louise. Her competence and kindness won the respect, admiration and love of her students. Dame Marie Louise inspired her wards with stories of the courage of missionaries in faraway lands. She eventually went to India where she founded the ICM congregation.

Along with two other sisters, Mother Marie arrived in Ilocos Sur in 1910. She eventually founded St. Theresa's College in Manila. The school flourished through the years as it served the children of upper and middle- class families, especially those who could cope with the stringent standards set by the Theresian nuns.

St. Theresa's College was named after St. Theresa of Avila,

Letter from Sister Jo

My dear co-Theresians (STC-QC Batch '82),

It is my joy and pleasure to congratulate you on your silver jubilee. Indeed, 25 years mark a significant milestone that calls for celebration and thanksgiving for the manifold blessings. As you walk down memory lane, I am sure you will discover revelations of God's love for you; even events that caused you pain could have been stepping stones for greater blessings, all of which have shaped you into the women you are today.

Yes, we salute you - women of substance, women achievers; indeed you have dedicated your life and career to the service of our country and our people, and in the process, you have made a significant difference in their lives. Congratulations!

I take this chance to thank those of you who have actively supported our career program for the younger Theresians. You have inspired them to choose and to pursue seriously careers that can help realize their dreams for the future. You have been role models to them.

I thank those of you who have publicly acknowledged your Theresian education and how this has shaped your life.

We take pride in you and your accomplishments, and all your valuable contributions by way of your advocates, to help make this country great again.

As you carry on your journey through life, we assure you of our prayers for your success, joy and fulfillment. May you always anchor your life in the Lord Jesus; He alone can give you that peace of mind and heart that we all long for.

One with you in joy and hope!

SR. JOSEFINA F. NEBRES, ICM
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The Theresian. Then. Now. Always.

The Theresians: Standing (from left) are *Philippine Daily Inquirer* Reader's Advocate editor/writer Lorna Kalaw-Tirol, writer/Miss International Gemma Cruz-Araneta, interior designer Ivy Almario, international concert pianist Ingrid Santamaria, multi-awarded broadcast journalist/writer Korina Sanchez, multi-awarded broadcaster Mel Tiangco, advocate/Miss Universe Margie Moran-Floirendo, ABS-CBN Publishing GM Thelma Sioson-San Juan, *Philippine Star* lifestyle editor Millet Martinez-Mananquil, Philippine Stock Exchange first chairperson Trina Yujuico-Kalaw and multi-awarded film director Laurice Guillen.

Seated are Maria Assunta Cuyegkeng, Ateneo VP for Ateneo Loyola Schools, interior designer Cynthia Almario, prima ballerina Lisa Macuja, acclaimed writer and historian Carmen Guerrero-Nakpil, International business magnate/philanthropist Loida Nicolas-Lewis, *Philippine Daily Inquirer* editor-in-chief/ *Time* Asian Hero Letty Jimenez-Magsanoc, advocate/sportswoman/singer Leah Navarro, International debate champion Patricia Evangelista, bar topnotcher Joanne de Venecia and pro-life advocate Sister Pilar Versoza.

Among many other Theresian achievers are cultural and literary icon Gilda Cordero-Fernando, Maryknoll College Foundation head Dr. Pat Licuanan, pop culture writer and *Philippine Star* columnist Jessica Zafra, *Manila Bulletin* lifestyle editor Ethel Soliven-Timbol, award-winning director Marilou Diaz-Abaya, theater arts and culture stalwart Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, sports champs/SEA Games medalists Teresita Damian and Isabel de Leon, foreign service luminary Connie Guanzon-Garcia and Margie Penson-Juico.

mystic and doctor of the church, who was named as the patroness of the various Theresian educational institutions in the country.

TAKING ROOTS IN QUEZON CITY

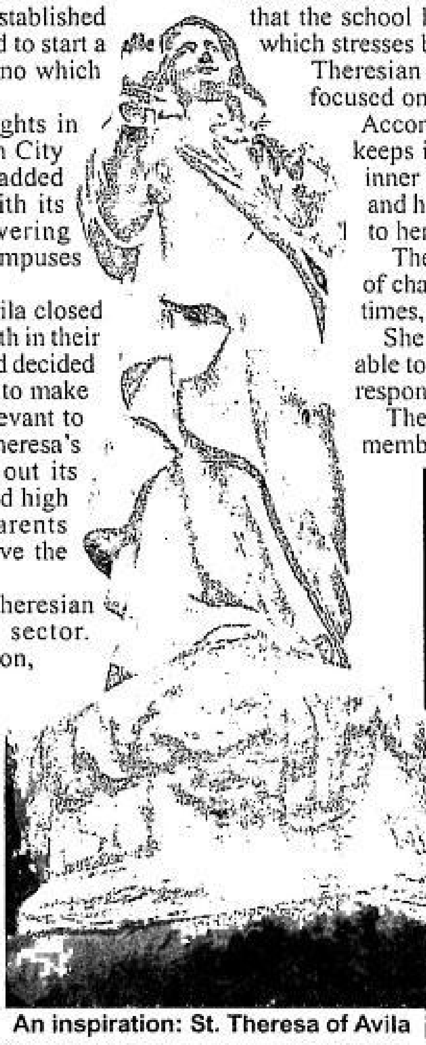
St. Theresa's College in Quezon City was established after the war, when the ICM nuns saw the need to start a new campus, larger than STC in San Marcelino which was ravaged by war.

Occupying five blocks in Sta. Mesa Heights in Quezon City, St. Theresa's College, Quezon City was officially opened only in June 1947. An added attraction was the beauty of its campus, with its green grass, tall trees and abundant flowering plants. It remains one of the most beautiful campuses in Metro Manila.

In the 1970s, St. Theresa's College in Manila closed down as the nuns chose to pursue a different path in their evangelical mission. The ICM all over the world decided to evaluate the changing times and find ways to make the Gospel and the spirit of the foundress relevant to the needs of humanity. Not long after, St. Theresa's College in Quezon City gradually phased out its college department, leaving its elementary and high school departments still operating as parents expressed their wish for their children to have the Theresian brand of education.

Simultaneous with the closure of the Theresian schools came changes in the education sector. Bastions of excellence in all-male education, like Ateneo de Manila and De La Salle University, turned coed. Exclusive colleges for women, on the other hand, opened their doors to male enrollees. St. Theresa's in Quezon City, while maintaining its high standards of excellence, took on a low profile. Still, the graduates of its elementary and high school departments performed well in the institutions where they pursued their college education.

St. Theresa's in QC and in Cebu continue to provide the quality of education consistent with the institution's standards. Recently, there have been efforts to revive the original St. Theresa's Manila.



An inspiration: St. Theresa of Avila

ACADEMIC PROFICIENCY AND SOCIAL COMMITMENT

That Theresians of the present generations continue to let their light shine confirms that the school has kept true to its commitment to provide basic education which stresses both academic proficiency and a social commitment.

Theresian students learn to exercise leadership in service strongly focused on helping the poor and fighting for justice.

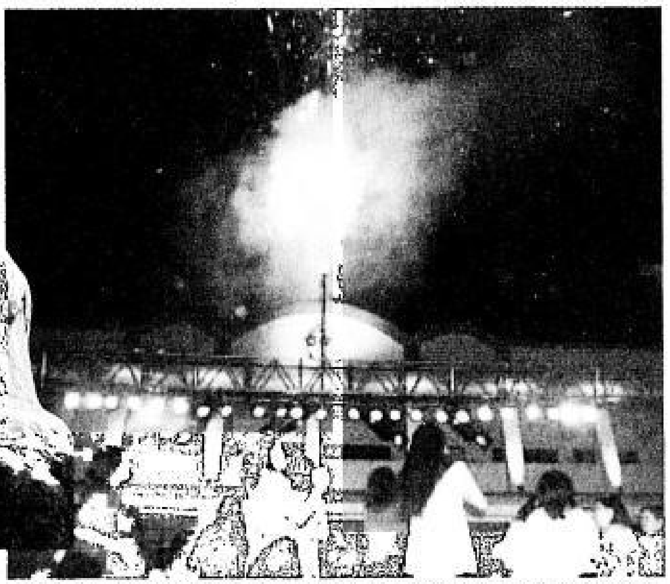
According to the student handbook that every Theresian carries and keeps in her heart and mind, "an authentic Theresian evolves from inner strength of character, honed by determination, inner freedom and honesty as she responds to the challenge of a fuller life offered to her as a maturing Christian learner and believer."

The Theresian, furthermore, "is a socially-oriented person, a lady of charm, growing into a valiant woman of courage, relevant to her times, as St. Theresa of Avila had embodied."

She is "a person of dignity, character, equanimity, social poise, able to seize the priority call in a situation, putting justice and social responsibility as uppermost values."

The Theresian does not just excel in academics. She is also a member of the community, and as her training would demand of her, "a blessing to those in need, in solidarity with the underprivileged."

Finally, loyalty lies in the heart of the Theresian. As every girl or woman who has worn the blue and white uniform has pledged to herself, her fellow alumnae and her alma mater, "once a Theresian, always a Theresian, in thought, word, deed."



Letting the light shine: This year's silver jubilarians, Batch '82, end the successful celebration with fireworks.

That Theresian mission & vision

Since 1972, the ICM-STC's Sambayan Educational Foundation, Inc. (SEFI) has led fundraising efforts to support thousands of high school students through a 50-percent subsidy of their tuition fees.

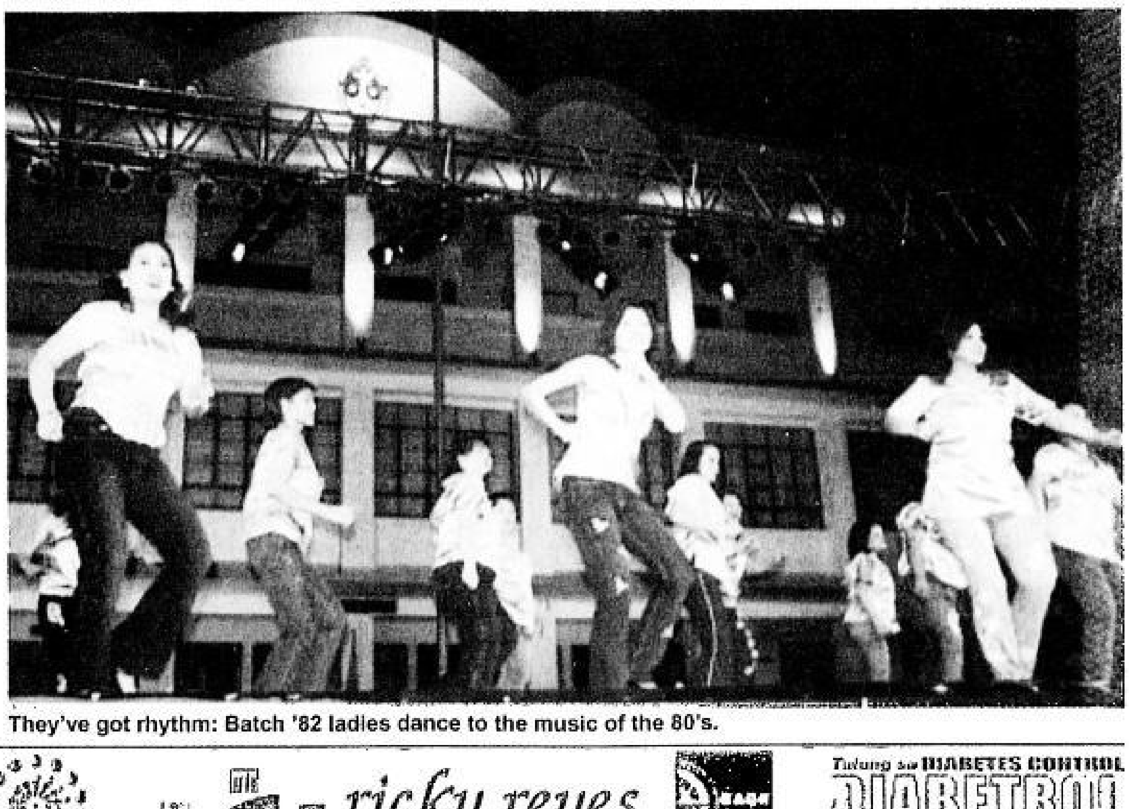
The SEFI's initiative is the product of active, socially-sensitive Theresian thinking at work.

SEFI fundraising efforts continue to this day. Today, the SEFI Endowment Fund supports 360 students, or close to 10 percent of the school's population. SEFI spends about P3.7 million annually to fulfill its part of the commitment. It is because of this annual pledge that the endowment fund has been gradually built up.

But the SEFI is now cranking up its efforts to increase the endowment fund to P50 million. To date, the fund stands at P29 million.

For those who wish to continue to help STC fulfill its mission and ambition — the unwavering mission of the Mother Foundress Ma. Louise De Meester and for all other inquiries about the fund, you may get in touch with Sr. Helen Rivera at 740-1802 or Sr. Josefina Nebres at 740-0117.

The silver jubilee organizers: Standing (from left) Saripaz Villar, Dr. Ting Jose, Cathy Manalastas, Grace Asuncion-Avedillo; (middle row) Korina Sanchez, Rina Narvasa-Batungbacal, Mel Adalem; (seated) Meca Penson-Prieto, Gina Lumauig and Digna Roxas-Arce.



They've got rhythm: Batch '82 ladies dance to the music of the 80's.

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Onward, soldiers

EDITORIAL

A WEEK AGO, AT THE CONCLUSION OF THEIR 94th plenary assembly, the country's Catholic bishops issued four documents. Coverage naturally centered on the second of these pastoral statements, a short letter in which the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines sounded the call to the faithful to safeguard the May elections.

Speaking through its president, Archbishop Angel Lagdameo, the CBCP said: "we are determined that we come together once more and organize ourselves more effectively than we have done in the past to make this year's elections credible—and as free of violence as possible."

That got everyone's attention, especially considering that the ghost of Garci's past evidently haunted the bishops' reasoning process. "Many of our current political problems, which have hindered fuller economic development and social justice, especially for the poor, can be traced to unresolved questions concerning the conduct of past elections."

But after one news cycle's worth of stories, public attention soon turned to other news, other stories. The very brevity of the second statement—it was all of six paragraphs—may have misled some of us into thinking that there was really nothing much there, that it was the same old thing.

Except that it wasn't. Its terseness was unusual. Unlike previous pastoral statements on the political crisis that the bishops have issued since July 2005, this letter, meant to be read in all Catholic churches, did not rest on an elaborate analysis of the national situation. There was no nuanced discussion of the options and alternatives. Instead, it was a simple call to action.

"We seek only one thing: to apply the values of the Gospel to our electoral process."

What does this mean, in the here and now? The CBCP's marching orders are sufficiently specific to be viable, sufficiently broad to be flexible: It "means that every parish organization and institution—and the BECs [basic ecclesial communities] most especially—be mobilized ... they must form linkages with one another and with other like-minded civic and religious associations that are working to help clean the dirt from our easily corrupted electoral process."

Easier said than done, of course, but it is important to remember that the Catholic Church has committed itself to a similar protect-the-sanctity-of-the-ballot initiative before: in 1986, in the snap elections. That, in fact, is why the CBCP was able to issue a specific, point-by-point condemnation of election fraud then, only six days after the polls closed: its parishes and churches had been previously mobilized. "In our considered judgment, the polls were unparalleled in the fraudulence of their conduct," the bishops thundered on Feb. 13, 1986. A listing of specific "modes of fraudulence" followed, and then came the famous line, the rallying cry that led, in less than two weeks' time, to People Power. "According to moral principles, a government that assumes or retains power through fraudulent means has no moral basis."

It is in this light that we must understand the bishops' call to action. By mobilizing the faithful with a sense of urgency unseen in 20 years, they will be in a position to immediately determine whether the 2007 polls are fraudulent or not.

We do not think it mere coincidence that the first of the bishops' four statements issued last Sunday celebrated (a year late) the centenary of the episcopal consecration of the first Filipino bishop.

"Dear brothers and sisters, the present-day circumstances pose new and numerous challenges to our faith and ministry . . . . However, there are to be found in our history persons who had shown us that love for God and country are not incompatible. Among these is Bishop Jorge Barlin."

Barlin, who had chosen as his motto "*Bonus miles Christi*," meaning "a good soldier of Christ," played a key role in the Church during a critical time: during the Revolution and at a time of religious schism. Among other honors, he was asked to give the opening prayer at the first session of the Philippine Assembly on Oct. 16, 1907.

A hundred years later, it is his successor-bishops' hope—so strong as to be palpable—that the heir of that first parliament will be the fruit of clean, uncorrupted elections.

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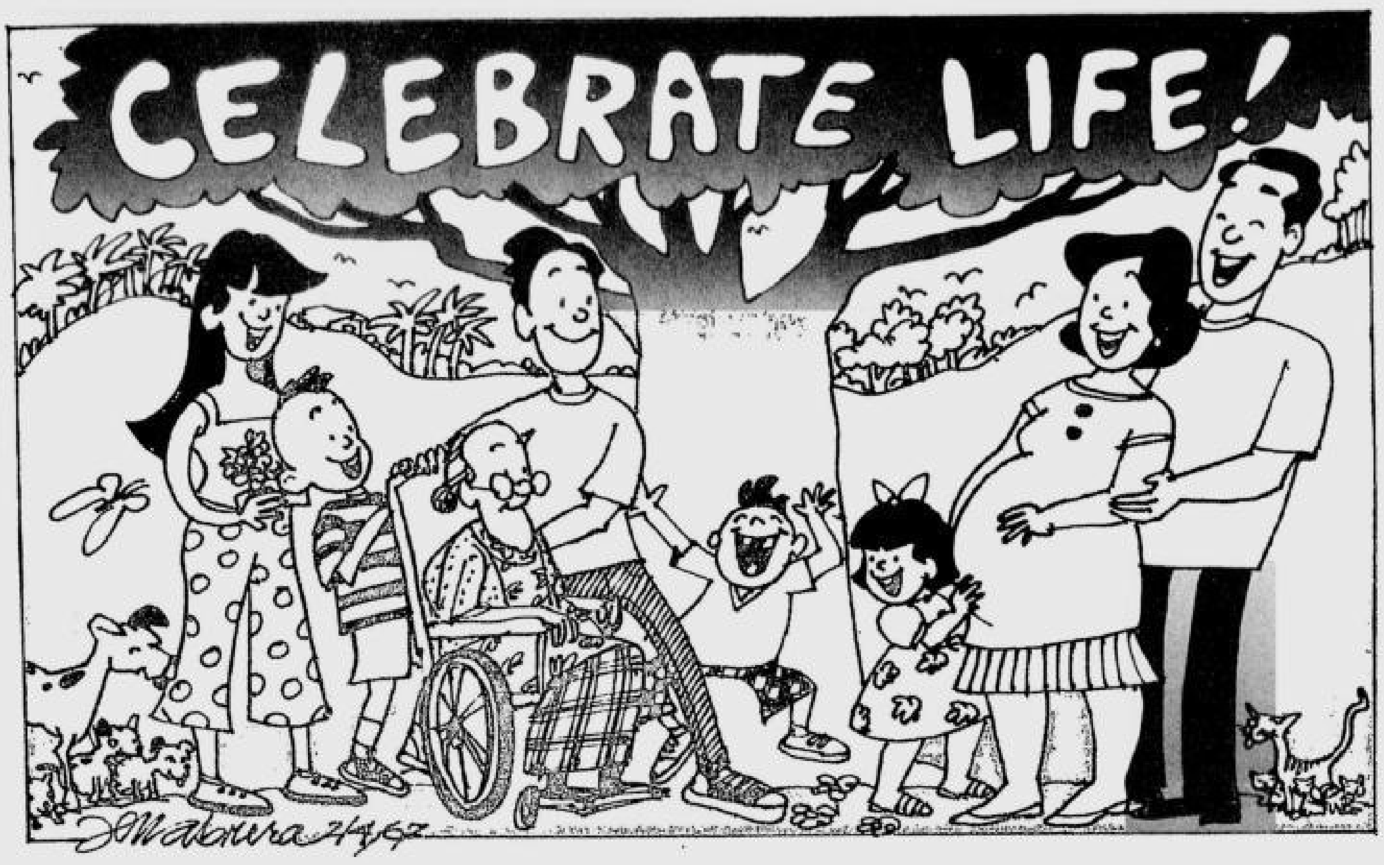

Adjustable party loyalties

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

I'M NOT A GREAT ADMIRER OF THE UNITED States like some of our idolatrous Amboys, but I do like some of its practices and institutions, like its observance of the two-party system. It's a good example our local politicians should emulate.

The American government started under only the Federalist Party with Thomas Jefferson, John Adams, Alexander Hamilton and other statesmen advising and assisting George Washington during his tenure as the first President of the United States. In time, it developed the two-party system with the Republican Party and later the Democratic Party as the major election rivals for its control.

That system has been maintained over the past two centuries, with the two parties gaining power alternately under their respective leaders and platforms. In 2004, the nation was split between the conservatives and the liberals over such disparate issues as stem cell research, abortion, social security, gay marriage, big business, and, most of all, the war in Iraq.

The virtue of the two-party system is the categorical choice it gives the electorate between the major rivals meeting one-on-one with their separate and opposed political platforms. Third parties are allowed to participate in the elections but none so far has dislodged either of the main contenders. A good example is the 1912 presidential election, when the retired but still popular Theodore Roosevelt attempted a comeback under a third party but only split the Republican vote between him and reelectionist William Howard Taft. Woodrow Wilson won with the solid support of his Democratic Party.

Third parties have also been uniformly unsuccessful in our country. Jose Avelino in 1949, Manuel Manahan and Claro M. Recto in 1957, Rogelio de la Rosa in 1961, all ran against the Nacionalista and Liberal candidates and lost.

Some say it was because of the advantages given by law to the dominant political parties then, such as representation in the board of election inspectors. The charisma of their leaders—Quezon, Osmeña, Roxas, Laurel, Magsaysay, etc.—and the political patronage they could dispense also gave them staying power with the voters.

The Constitution of 1987 has changed all that. The Nacionalista and Liberal Parties are now splinter groups struggling to regain their lost ascendancy among a host of other political clusters with undistinguishable acronyms and unidentifiable platforms, if any. The multi-party system has only created much confusion and diffused party responsibility. In 1962, President Macapagal lured some disloyal members of the Nacionalista majority in the House of Representatives to form an Allied Majority with the Liberal minority. The present Rainbow Coalition under Speaker Jose de Venecia is a similar confederation bound not by a common political platform but an ulterior urge for numerical superiority.

Political integrity is not a requirement for our present-day politicians. Principles are casually shed off like dirty clothes; there is no repentance or necessary excuse for disloyalty. The most loathsome example is Ferdinand Marcos who, having lost the presidential nomination by his Liberal Party in 1965, transferred to and was welcomed by the Nacionalista Party, which made him its official candidate. As a Liberal, he had fiercely attacked the Nacionalistas; as a converted Nacionalista, he now turned his guns against his former party. He won, declared martial law, and formed his all-powerful and unlamented KBL that demolished both the Nacionalista and Liberal Parties.

Many senatorial aspirants are minor Marcoses now, flitting from one party to another just to be included in their official slates as their vehicles to election victory. Former opponents of Joseph Estrada are now in the opposition ticket along with some of his faithful loyalists. A number of them, no longer faithful, are hoping—or applying—to be invited to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's team that many of her own apologists are reluctant to join.

The parties themselves are no less practical rather than upright. The criterion for victory now, according to the administration spinmasters, is "winnability" and not ability. That is why we have morons in Congress and vote-buyers, goons and election falsifiers in many other public offices today. They are a disgrace to Philippine democracy and to the entire country itself, and some of them will be running for the Senate this May by hook or by crook.

Identify them, shun them for the hypocrites and opportunists that they are, and let them bite the dust of defeat as unworthy seekers of the voters' confidence. Some of them have been in public office before and have betrayed the people's trust. These are the scoundrels who have blighted the political landscape and would further darken it with their culpability and cupidity. They should be running not for public office but from the police or the insane asylum.

Let us establish a new sense of decency in our elections where intelligence, morality and love of country, above all else, shall dignify at last the sovereign Filipino electorate.

Call waiting

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

"THE NEXT TIME YOU FEEL LIKE GOD CAN not use you, just remember: Noah was a drunk; Jacob was a liar; Leah was ugly; Abraham was too old; Isaac was a daydreamer; Joseph was abused; Gideon was afraid; Elijah was suicidal; Jonah was an escapist; Job was bankrupt; Jeremiah was a crybaby; the disciples fell asleep while praying; Peter denied his Master; and... Lazarus was dead!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Lk. 5, 1-11), Jesus calls ordinary, seemingly useless and unqualified men to become His disciples. Peter himself says it all when He tells Jesus: "Depart from me Lord, for I am a sinful man." This statement captures the reality of someone who is called. Discipleship is not so much a matter of worthiness, but the willingness to be used by God for His mission.

* * *

If Jesus were to choose His senatorial lineup, "winnability" would surely not be one of His criteria. By all standards, the disciples were not the best people to do the job. They were not intellectuals, they were not popular personalities and they were not moneyed. They were, so to say, simple and ordinary. But they were real. And they were committed, because they had a Master. Think about it: We do not need intelligent, moneyed and popular people to lead us. All we need are simple, real people who have a sense of mission and vision to serve us.

* * *

Public service is a call. It is something that is given, not stolen. It is something that is mandated, not manipulated. It is something that is motivated by a sense of mission, not by ambition. Finally, public service is not so much about positions, but a disposition to be of service in whatever capacity, and in whatever way. Next time you hear of people running for elected positions so that they can serve the people *kuno*, think again: why do they have to spend so much money and resort to violence and manipulation just to get elected?

* * *

I know this is the dreamer in me that is asking, but I'm asking anyway: Is there any chance for the good, able, dedicated but "un-moneyed" people to win in the elections and to lead us? Have we gone so low so as to accept with finality that money is the bottom line of our elections? Are there able and willing potential leaders out there who have ceased to dream, and no longer venture "to put out into deep water" because of fear? Do we no longer have a Master and a Church that tell them "Do not be afraid"? Just asking.

* * *

What do you do when you see a "missed call" in your cell phone register? Do you ignore it? Do you erase it? And what do you do when you see a "call waiting" flashing in your cell phone? Do you ignore it? Do you end it? As we go through life, may we not ignore our "missed calls" or keep our "waiting calls" unheeded. God is calling, and people are waiting.

* * *

All of us are called. All of us are called to be good, and to do good. All of us are called to do specific roles in this life which no one else can do. In God's unity ticket, everybody is welcome, and everyone is qualified, and everybody is a winner. Finally, all of us are called to go back to heaven at the end of our earthly pilgrimage. You'll be surprised who the big winners are in heaven. God is a God who sees the heart. And God is a God of surprises, remember? (But, sure, I often do wish that God would surprise us now!)

* * *

Fr. Jingjong Rocha, SVD, writes about the beautiful symbolism of Jesus preaching on a boat off Lake Gennesaret. This is the picture of the pilgrim church journeying toward the Kingdom of God, a community which stresses not so much on permanence and structures, but on listening to the Master; a community in need of ongoing conversion and constant renewal. He ends the symbolism with all of us in the boat paddling our way together "toward the Kingdom of God." In the end, it's not the machinery, not the know-how, but the heart and the know-why that will save the day.

* * *

Below is a check-list of "qualifications" needed by anyone who wants to be a part of God's unity ticket: "self-reliant but not self-sufficient; energetic but not self-seeking; steadfast but not stubborn; tactful but not timid; serious but not sullen; loyal but not sectarian; unmovable but not stationary; gentle but not hypersensitive; tenderhearted but not touchy; conscientious but not perfectionist; disciplined but not demanding; generous but not gullible; meek but not weak; humorous but not hilarious; friendly but not familiar; holy but not holier-than-thou; discerning but not critical; progressive but not pretentious; authoritative but not autocratic."

* * *

I have always encouraged people to read the Bible. The Word of God is found in that Book of Wisdom and Truth. Receive Bible quotes on your mobile, text ON BIBLE and send to 2948 for Globe/Sun or 3940 for Smart. God bless you. Mama Mary loves you!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, help me not to miss your call, and not to keep the people waiting. Amen.

The power of a distribution giant

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST FRIDAY, THE RITES OF RENEWAL WERE once again carried out on the parade ground of Villamor Air Base. Maj. Gen. Horacio S. Tolentino became the 29th commanding general of the Philippine Air Force, succeeding Lt. Gen. Jose L. Reyes who retired a day short of his 56th birthday.

General Tolentino is the first son of an airman to attain the highest position in the Air Force family. He grew up in the Airmen's Village in what was then Nichols Air Base, just a stone's throw away from the affluent Magallanes Village. His is the classic example of the "upward mobility" in our society, which is offered by the armed forces organization on the basis of merit and quality performance. From humble beginnings in enlisted personnel housing, he now moves into the official residence of the "Commanding General, Philippine Air Force," a source of pride and inspiration for all the men and women of his command.

A product of the public school system in Pasay City, he entered the Philippine Military Academy in 1970, graduating with the class of 1974. Today, this class rules the armed forces.

* * *

Last Jan. 24, in a letter to the editor, Carlos Manalastas of Sampaloc, Manila asked if there was a law banning senior citizens from using a credit card for their purchases of medicines and other items covered by Republic Act 9257. Apparently from his previous experience, drugstores and a big supermarket refused to allow him the 20-percent senior citizens' discount whenever he used a credit card. The discount could only be enjoyed if he paid in cash.

Manalastas asked: "*Tama po ba sila?*"

In reply, Vice President Noli de Castro, in a letter to the editor published on Jan. 31, wrote: "As the main author of the law and chair of the Senate committee on social justice, welfare and rural development in the 12th Congress, I would like to assure Manalastas that senior citizens can avail themselves of the 20-percent discount regardless of the manner of payment for the purchase of medicine."

For the information of our fellow senior citizens, let me just summarize very briefly important points of the laws which have provided us the benefits we now enjoy by virtue of old age.

The original law (RA 7632) authored by Sen. Edgardo Angara gave a citizen who is at least 60 years old and earning no more than P60,000 a year, a 20-percent discount from groceries, restaurants, hospitals and drugstores.

A few years later, an Expanded Senior Citizens Act (RA 9257) authored by then Sen. Noli de Castro and Rep. Eduardo Zialcita, was passed, correcting some of the inequities of the earlier law.

Republic Act 9257 removed the P60,000 threshold and declared the Senior Citizen's ID Card totally obsolete and unnecessary. In its place, a driver's license or any similar document was acceptable. But most establishments still require a Senior Citizen's ID. Incidentally, in the United States, when my wife and I go to the movies, I merely inform the teller that we are both seniors. No problem—no questions asked, no IDs required.

Last week, with the Vice President's letter in my pocket, I proceeded to a Mercury Drug store to purchase my usual medicines for blood pressure, diabetes and prostate problems. The moment I presented my credit card (for the last 10 years since my bypass operation, I have every now and then tried to use my credit card to buy medicines), the clerk informed me that I could only enjoy the senior citizens' discount with a cash payment. I showed Vice President De Castro's letter and he disappeared for a few minutes. I was then called to the customer service desk and the assistant branch manager politely informed me that the matter had to be referred back to the home office for instructions. The letter of the Vice President of the Republic was not good enough. It was like talking to a blank wall. Senior citizens have been and remain at the mercy of a distribution giant which has been allowed to interpret the law as it wishes.

Mercury Drug was founded in February 1945 just after the liberation of Manila. It rose from humble origins—actually, from a pushcart which was located along Bambang Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila. Its first store opened in March 1945. It has since expanded to over 500 stores and franchises nationwide, employing more than 7,000 people. Today it is a giant in the medicine distribution industry, controlling more than 50 percent of the market.

* * *

When Vice President De Castro was apprised of Mercury Drug's policy regarding the use of credit cards by senior citizens, he immediately took steps to address the matter. His swift response is in the Ramon Magsaysay tradition of prompt action on citizen complaints. Perhaps, this is what we all miss these days.

I hope Mercury Drug will see its way toward changing its policy on the use of credit cards by senior citizens, honoring the 20-percent discount granted them by law. Incidentally, most restaurants give the 20-percent discount to senior citizens using a credit card. However, the implementation of the 12-percent EVAT practically wipes out most of the benefits of the senior citizen discount program.

It is time for all senior citizens to unite and press the candidates running for office in May for relief on this matter. Unless we raise our voices, we will remain at the mercy of big business.

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80 ways to change the world

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IF THERE ARE 50 WAYS TO LEAVE YOUR LOVER, there are actually at least 80 ways to change the world. On the occasion of its 80th anniversary, Maryknoll/Miriam College has just released "The 80 Ways Book," explained as "a book of big and small ways to: save the environment, build a culture of peace, combat poverty and help the poor, and promote equality between women and men."

So by actual count, the book really contains 360 ways to address problems linked to the environment, violence, poverty and gender inequality.

Explains Dr. Patricia Licuanan, Miriam president: "When the Miriam College community was planning the school's 80th anniversary celebration, the idea of a book was raised. But we did not want just another slick and expensive coffee-table book. We decided that we wanted a publication that represented our educational mission as well as our advocacies, that would appeal to persons of all ages, that would be a collaborative effort of the entire community and that would be a simple and tangible way to project our institution's contribution to national development."

And so we have this literally small book filled with short "do-able" tips culled from all members of the Maryknoll/Miriam community: students, faculty, administration, service personnel, as well as alumni.

In the section on gender equality, for instance, the tips range from "Men can do work like women, like clean the house" (a contribution of Joseph Dalugdugan, 5, of the Child Study Center) to "Share information and build a network of colleagues with a strong commitment to equity" (from Anna Dinglasan of the Women and Gender Institute).

Being an alumna (GS '68, HS '72), I was asked to contribute to this section and here it is: "We can initiate change within our own sphere of family by changing the way we raise our daughters and sons. If we raise them in freedom and with respect, teach them to dream and to believe in their capacity to achieve those dreams, to respect other people and to ignore social expectations and restrictions if these impede their way—surely, change will begin and a new social order will evolve within our lifetime!" O, do-able and achievable, *'di ba?*

Copies of "The 80 Ways Book" are available, for P150 each at the Miriam College External Affairs Office, with readers invited to "reflect on the lessons found within its pages and share these with others."

* * *

IT'S strictly not a "glossy" book, but "Daughters True," published in celebration of "100 Years of Scholastican Education 1906-2006," is substantial and hefty. There are articles on Benedictine spirituality, women empowerment in the classroom, and even a nostalgic look back at St. Scholastica uniforms through the years. The section I found most interesting, though, was that on "the boys of Sister Gratia," referring to the boys—now grandfathers with graying hair—who went to otherwise all-girl St. Scholastica's for kindergarten, blossoming under the care of the kindly nun who dealt with all her students—boys or girls—with tenderness and kindness, even if perhaps the boys got a little messy from playing in the sandbox.

Next in terms of interest to the boys are the "St. Scho" alumnae who are profiled throughout the book, women who somehow broke the mold, broke free of their convent school upbringing to take on surprising trajectories in their lives and, perhaps, even managed to ruffle the unflappable nuns. But no matter where they went, it seemed they always went home to "St. Scho," paying tribute to the lasting impact their education had on their thinking and their work.

The real attraction of the book, though, are the numerous photographs taking us back to gentler, softer times, when young women wore skirts brushing their ankles, when nuns were still swathed in wool and wimples, and when everyone sat with ankles crossed demurely, their faces fixed in sweet and vapid expressions.

The editors: Neni Sta. Romana Cruz, Paulynn Paredes Sicam, Karina Africa Bolasco and Ceres Doyo, all of them experienced journalists, writers and publishers, deserve praise for resisting the temptation to take the easy way out with a commemorative book filled only with nostalgia and self-congratulation. Instead, they labored to produce a volume that takes, at times, a self-critical look at the social and academic milieu, and St. Scholastica's role in it.

This is why you don't have to be Scholastican, or even to have gone to an exclusive school, to enjoy "Daughters True." The book provides snapshots of what it was like being a young woman throughout the last hundred years, and how this process of maturation has evolved, producing women of surprising variety and permutations of spirit and spunk.

* * *

THOSE who read the column on the controversy surrounding the upcoming "Panagbenga" Festival in Baguio might be interested to know that the owners of establishments along Session Road finally got their request granted.

If you will recall, the establishments were protesting the scheme imposed on them by the organizers of "Session Road in Bloom," disallowing them from using their sidewalk frontages during the duration of the festival and forcing them to rent space in kiosks near the center island, which would have made conducting business not just inconvenient for them and their customers, but unsanitary as well.

With the intervention of the mayor and city council, the festival organizers conceded that the establishments could use half of their sidewalk frontage, but would have to pay a premium "rental" for the space. But as one of the protesting owners remarked: "Beggars can't be choosers." Though why they have to beg for their rightful due escapes me at the moment.

Why not a boycott?

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

IF ANYONE HAD SUGGESTED IN JULY 2005 that the correct response to the political crisis spawned by the Garci tapes would be to wait for the 2007 midterm elections, that person would have been denounced as an agent of Malacañang. Half of the members of the Arroyo Cabinet resigned that month, calling on the President they had served to spare the country and step down. The streets and the corridors of public opinion reverberated with a single call: "Resign, or face ouster!"

Even former President Fidel Ramos, who refused to join the call for resignation, proposed an exit scheme that would allow President Macapagal-Arroyo to gracefully leave the presidency in 2007, and pave the way for a parliamentary government under a new head of state. But Malacañang's illegal occupant would not be shamed or booted out. After reading an ambivalent apology for her "lapse in judgment" on national TV, she took the offensive and never looked back.

She did everything within her power to bury the Hello Garci scandal. Her paid assassins in the House of Representatives killed the two impeachment cases against her even before the substantive charges could be heard. The military and police officers who figured in the tapes as having facilitated the rigging of the canvassing process in Mindanao on her behalf were either cleared or not investigated at all All of them were rewarded with cushy positions. The election officials identified in the tapes as among the Garci operatives who fabricated Ms Arroyo's winning margins were subsequently promoted. The police general who allegedly harbored Virgilio Garcillano when the latter went into hiding to avoid a congressional investigation is now the defense secretary.

How the odds have shifted in just one year! Today, hardly anyone in the political opposition remembers the crackling sound of "Resign, or face ouster!" This has been replaced by the insipid call to make the 2007 election a referendum on Ms Arroyo.

A boycott would be more sensible. If we believe that tinkering with the Constitution is suicidal as long as the country is run by an illegitimate president, how could we possibly think that elections conducted by the same regime would be different? Plain common sense should tell us that the methods of wholesale fraud tested and crudely carried out in 2004 would have been quickly debugged by now, to be applied again in 2007.

What makes us pin our hopes then on the 2007 elections? Has the Abalos-led Comelec suddenly become a reformed institution? Are there new and credible faces in the agency at the provincial and municipal levels that would warrant our renewed confidence in the integrity of the electoral system? Are there new fraud-proof technologies in place that might neutralize any attempt to doctor the results? Are the opposition candidates so popular they can override any attempt at wholesale cheating? Do we sense a surge of public vigilance of the kind the nation saw in the 1986 snap election? Are we hoping that the Arroyo government, having survived the crisis, might be gripped by conscience and be more predisposed this time around to ensure a credible vote?

The answer to these questions is a big "NO." So why is there no call to boycott? Why do we appear to embrace this year's election with willful guilelessness?

In 2006, the opposition in Thailand called for a boycott of the parliamentary elections on the strength of the claim that then Prime Minister Thaksin had rigged the whole process. It demanded the resignation of Thaksin, and, with him, the whole election commission. It called for a change in the election rules. The stand-off led to the jailing of the election commissioners and eventually to the sacking of Thaksin himself by a military coup.

Boycott, as far as I know, was never seriously considered an option by the present electoral opposition in the Philippines. Why? There are two main reasons for this state of affairs. The first is that, even after two people power transitions, our political system continues to be dominated by traditional politicians who view elections as nothing more than the private pursuit of political power. To them, nothing is more basic than their irresistible need to get something for themselves under any circumstances. No wonder, they can switch with great ease from opposition to administration.

The second is the public's fear that a boycott may produce situations that cannot be controlled. Before they commit themselves to any line of action, the people demand to know where things are likely to go. They do not like Ms Arroyo, but they are equally distrustful of many of her possible replacements. Profoundly affected by the disappointing outcomes of past political ruptures, they now tend to regard any deviation from the beaten path as dangerous and futile adventurism.

There is a third possible reason for the lack of any serious consideration of boycott as an alternative to participation in a manipulated election—the absence of a moral leader who would champion political reform. After the 2004 election, that role slid into the hands of Susan Roces, FPJ's brave widow. Everyone applauded her at Club Filipino for her eloquent rejection of Ms Arroyo's shallow apology, taking this rare appearance as a signal of her political coming of age. But she either did not want the role, or she felt she was not cut out for it. In any case, when she did not step up to the plate, it was Erap who came forward. The deposed leader's public clout remains amazingly undiminished, but he is not a moral symbol who could lead a boycott or a winning slate. And the times call for one.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

'Desaparecidos'

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

HER PAPA CALLED HER SUGAR. SHE IS 3 YEARS OLD, although she still raises two solemn fingers whenever she's asked how old she is. Her grandmother Beth says Sugar had her birthday celebration in McDonald's just last week. They had saved discount coupons for the occasion.

Sugar's Papa wasn't there.

I meet Sugar at a press conference, in a room with a couch printed with fat peach flowers. The walls are painted a clean beige and papered with pictures of the dead and missing. "Markus Bangit," reads one poster. "Killed 08 June 06, Isabela." The parade of faces continues. Noli Capulong, killed on May 31, 2006 in Laguna. Cris Hugo, killed on March 19, 2006 in Legazpi, Albay. Jeysen Delen, killed on April 27, 2006. Jose Doton, killed May 17, 2006 in Pangasinan.

Sugar skips from corner to corner, pink and white sneakers squeaking on the white tile floor. There are cookie crumbs on her Barney T-shirt. She stops at one poster, taps my knee and grins. "Papa," she announces.

Gabriel Calubad, reads the poster. Abducted June 17, 2006 in Caluag, Quezon. There is a photograph of a serious young man. Beside his poster is another, Rogelio Calubad, Sugar's grandfather. Father and son were on their way to a farm when a motorcycle and an unlicensed blue van cut off their vehicle. According to witnesses, armed men poured out of the van, handcuffed the Calubads, and forced Rogelio into the van. Gabriel was thrust on the motorcycle.

Gabriel is a civilian. His father Rogelio belongs to the peace negotiation panel of the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDF). According to the petition for habeas corpus filed by Sugar's grandmother Beth, Rogelio is listed among the accredited and protected persons under the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees entered into between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the NDF.

Before their abduction, on Aug. 10, 2005, the Police Mobile Group of Camarines Sur arrested Rogelio's brother Cesar Calubad without a warrant. Cesar claimed afterwards that he was tortured and interrogated, mainly about the personal circumstances and the whereabouts of his brother Rogelio.

Sugar knows her father is missing. She doesn't know why. Her grandmother has told her very little, for fear the little girl will start asking people about Gabriel. I am told that whenever Sugar comes across her father's picture, she demands that her father come home, and quickly. "Papa, *uwi na kayo, tagal na ninyo, di kayo nag-uwi.*"

A few days ago, retired Supreme Court Justice Jose Melo released statements from his commission's investigation on politically motivated crimes. There are many things wrong with the Melo Commission, even ignoring the fact that the report still has not been released to the public. For one, the body has repeatedly blamed witnesses and victims of political violence for refusing to testify.

On Oct. 3, 2006, Justice Melo said the commission had wanted the families of missing UP students Karen Empeño and Sherlyn Cadapan to testify first. The abductions, which occurred in Hagonoy, Bulacan, had been headlined in various newspapers all over the country. According to Melo, when the families and leftist groups turned down the invitation, "we had to call our first available witnesses."

Sherlyn's mother Linda denies this vehemently. In an October 2006 letter to the INQUIRER editor, the mothers of Sherlyn and Karen announced that "For the record, from the time the Melo Commission was created, we did not receive any formal invitation from that body."

The Melo Commission, however, did invite the Cadapan-Empeño families—right after that letter to the editor was published.

By then, the families were unwilling to be interviewed. If the commission can lie once, they say, it can lie again. Their refusal is compounded by the fact that the commission chose to hear the military's statements before speaking to the victims. As to how the commission questioned the military without talking to the victims first is anyone's guess.

In a 14-point memorandum submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo by Irene Khan, Amnesty International secretary general, the President was informed that a victim-centered approach was part of the international standard in the independent investigation of political violence. The Melo Commission, she said, "should undertake a prompt, thorough, effective and impartial investigation and not be hampered or otherwise inhibited by following the conclusions of a previous investigation. Investigations should not simply constitute an examination of an existing police investigations file."

The commission admits that its findings are mainly based on documents from Task Force Usig, the special police unit tasked to probe the political killings. Interestingly, Task Force's charming Captain Libay is the same gentleman who said his task force would be overburdened if they handled the Cadapan-Empeño case, or any other case that did not involve politicians, journalists or party-list leaders—in other words, high-profile cases. It was a job, he said, for the local police.

It is the same local police, upon whom the Melo Commission depends, that claimed there was no student kidnapping. When I insisted there was a blotter, PO3 Ponciano dela Cruz of Hagonoy claimed there was none. When I gave him the date of the filing, he claimed that there were no family members who had come forward. When I gave him the name of Sherlyn's sister-in-law who personally went to the police station, he claimed there weren't "enough" family members. When he found the blotter, he said no witnesses had stepped forward. When I told him that the witnesses had been stepping forward for weeks in court, he was indignant: "Why did no one tell us?" At the end of the conversation, the man who didn't know there was a kidnapping assured me that he and his men had been working doggedly for weeks to investigate the crime. Give the man a medal.

The Melo Commission claims that they are only limited to investigating political killings, not cases of the disappeared. I do not know why this is so, and why deaths are more ominous than the lives of people who up to now may be undergoing torture. But if this is so, I don't understand why the Cadapan-Empeño abduction case was considered an exception. Perhaps the Melo Commission knows something we don't, and have determined the cases to be murders instead of abductions.

In Spanish, the word *desaparecer*, meaning "to disappear," is both a transitive and intransitive verb. The flexibility of the word is why many English-speaking cultures have adopted its usage when describing forced disappearances. Gabriel was disappeared from Quezon; the military disappeared the students; Sugar's father was disappeared. There is no word in the English language that can be used in the same way.

At the press conference, I stoop down to say goodbye to Sugar. She gives me a kiss, then toddles away in her pink-and-white sneakers to talk to her Papa's picture.

* * *

For comments, just text: PM REBEL name, age, location, message then send to 2948 for Globe/Sun and 3940 for Smart. E-mail at rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

Coping with global warming

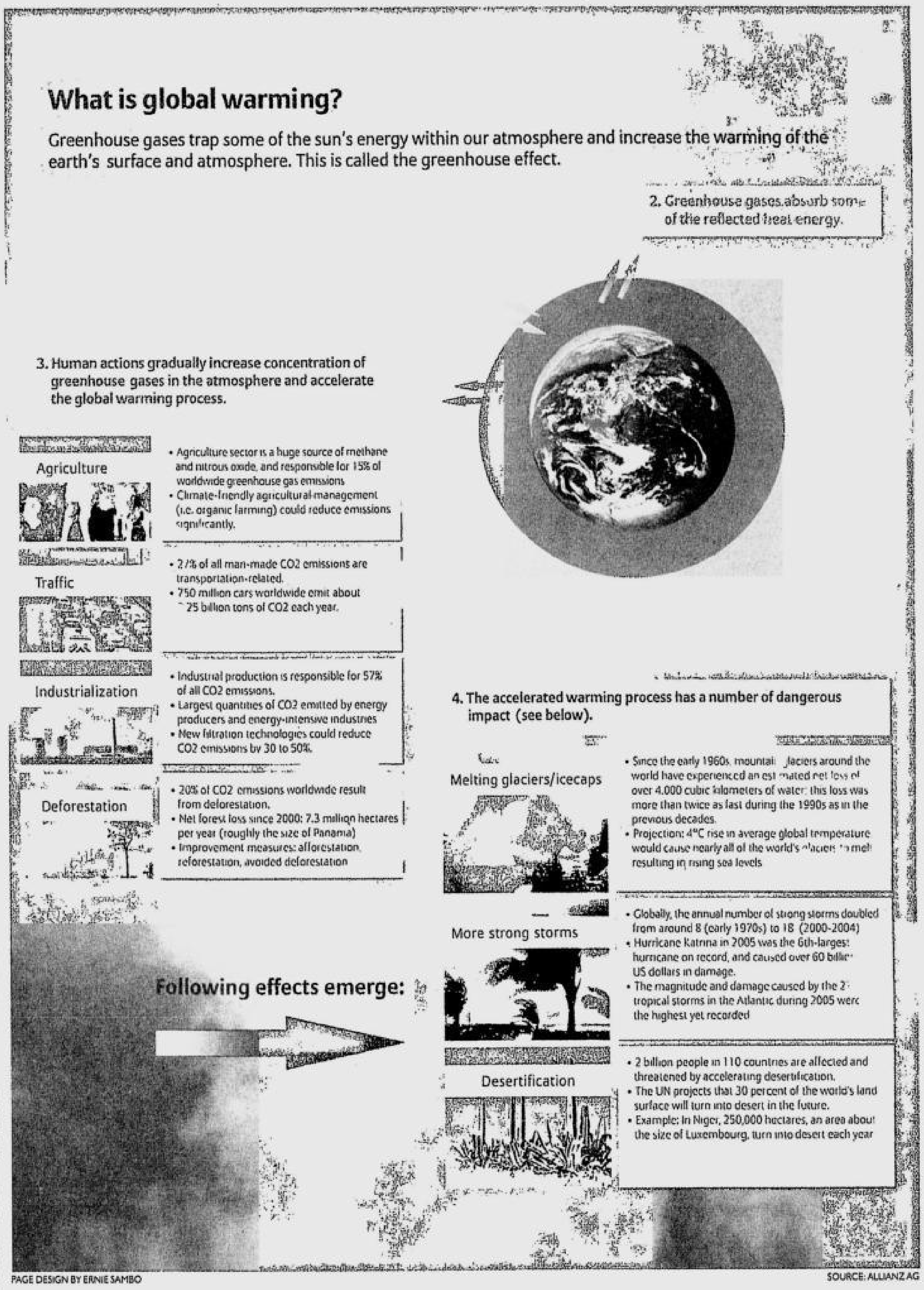
THE CONSENSUS AMONG SCIENTISTS IS THAT man is causing global warming, which they say will be unstoppable for centuries to come.

The report that the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released in Paris on Friday said that man-made emissions of greenhouse gases could be blamed for hotter nights, fewer cold days, killer heat waves, floods and heavy rains, devastating droughts, and an increase in the intensity of tropical storms.

Climate change is already taking its toll on the Philippines. Supertyphoons "Reming," "Queenie" and "Paeng" visited the country last year, destroying billions of pesos worth of crops, infrastructure and property, and killing thousands of people.

With nowhere else to go (for now) outside planet Earth, people will just have to adapt to a warmer world with wilder weather.

Doing nothing, however, will just worsen matters. "(I)f you will decide not to do something the impacts will be much larger than if we do something," said Jonathan Overpeck, co-author of the IPCC report. (See *What you can do* below.)



What is global warming?

Greenhouse gases trap some of the sun's energy within our atmosphere and increase the warming of the earth's surface and atmosphere. This is called the greenhouse effect.

2. Greenhouse gases absorb some of the reflected heat energy.

3. Human actions gradually increase concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere and accelerate the global warming process.

Agriculture

- Agriculture sector is a huge source of methane and nitrous oxide, and responsible for 15% of worldwide greenhouse gas emissions
- Climate-friendly agricultural management (i.e. organic farming) could reduce emissions significantly.

Traffic

- 27% of all man-made CO2 emissions are transportation-related.
- 750 million cars worldwide emit about ~ 25 billion tons of CO2 each year.

Industrialization

- Industrial production is responsible for 57% of all CO2 emissions.
- Largest quantities of CO2 emitted by energy producers and energy-intensive industries
- New filtration technologies could reduce CO2 emissions by 30 to 50%.

Deforestation

- 20% of CO2 emissions worldwide result from deforestation.
- Net forest loss since 2000: 7.3 million hectares per year (roughly the size of Panama)
- Improvement measures: afforestation, reforestation, avoided deforestation

Following effects emerge:

4. The accelerated warming process has a number of dangerous impact (see below).

Melting glaciers/icecaps

- Since the early 1960s, mountain glaciers around the world have experienced an estimated net loss of over 4,000 cubic kilometers of water; this loss was more than twice as fast during the 1990s as in the previous decades.
- Projection: 4°C rise in average global temperature would cause nearly all of the world's glaciers to melt resulting in rising sea levels

More strong storms

- Globally, the annual number of strong storms doubled from around 8 (early 1970s) to 18 (2000-2004)
- Hurricane Katrina in 2005 was the 6th-largest hurricane on record, and caused over 60 billion US dollars in damage.
- The magnitude and damage caused by the 2[illegible] tropical storms in the Atlantic during 2005 were the highest yet recorded

Desertification

- 2 billion people in 110 countries are affected and threatened by accelerating desertification.
- The UN projects that 30 percent of the world's land surface will turn into desert in the future.
- Example: In Niger, 250,000 hectares, an area about the size of Luxembourg, turn into desert each year

PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

SOURCE: ALLIANZ AG

Climate change upon us

By Cyril L. Bonabente
Inquirer Research

SINCE THE LATE 1800S, THE average temperature of the earth's surface has risen by 0.6 Celsius, according to the United Nations. Experts say a century and a half of industrialization is to blame for global warming, or the overall increase in world temperatures.

Industrialization involves the burning of fossil fuels like coal, wood and gas for energy. This releases gases like carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide into the atmosphere.

Greenhouse gases

These gases act like the glass roof of a greenhouse and trap solar heat, thus the term "greenhouse gases."

Alarmingly, carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere are increasing by more than 10 percent every 20 years. A study posted on the website of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) predicts the present century's carbon dioxide levels may double the pre-industrial levels.

A briefing material distributed during the recent World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland says that from an average of 190 parts per million during the ice ages, carbon dioxide levels now measure 377 ppm, and may exceed 600 ppm by year 2100.

By that year, world temperature would have increased by 1.4 to 5.8 Celsius, says the UN.

Melting glaciers

Heat caused the retreat of all mountain glaciers in nonpolar regions during the 20th century. In Switzerland, glacier volume decreased by two-thirds.

In the same period, air temperature in arctic regions rose by roughly 5 Celsius, according to the UN. In the Russian arctic, heat has melted permafrost (ground that stays at or below water's freezing point) under building foundations, causing the collapse of a number of structures.

Heat also expands ocean volume. Average sea level rose by 10 to 20 cm in the previous century, and may increase by 9 to 88 cm by 2100.

Rising sea levels

The increase in sea levels can have dire results. Oceans may overflow and cause the disappearance of some countries, which can then cause mass migrations.

Already, the sea has contaminated underground water sources in Israel, Thailand and island states in the Pacific and Indian Oceans, and the Caribbean Sea.

The draft of a report by the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change predicts (IPCC) that as temperatures rise, between 1.1 billion and 3.2 billion will suffer from water scarcity, and between 200 million and 600 million more persons will go hungry by year 2080.

Global warming affects agricultural yields in tropical regions, as in the case of northern India, and disrupts food supply.

Greater heat translates to greater evaporation. This is manifested in the 40- to 60-percent decrease in water in the catchment basins of Niger, Lake Chad and Senegal.

Greater evaporation also means more powerful storms.

Extinction

Global warming has adverse effects not just on humans, but on all living things. The UNFCCC website says the phenomenon may cause the extinction of about 25 percent of mammals and 12 percent of birds.

"Numerous plant and animal species, already weakened by pollution and loss of habitat, are not expected to survive the next 100 years," it says.

The IPCC draft says that at 2 to 3 degrees above 1900 temperatures, South America's Amazon forest system can collapse, leading to a "huge loss of biodiversity."

The draft also predicts the "functional extinction" of Australia's Great Barrier Reef, a World Heritage site stretching more than 345,000 square kilometers off the country's northeast coast, within decades.

Realizing the problem should be addressed immediately, the World Meteorological Organization and the UN Environment Program created in 1988 the IPCC, which reviews research and provides governments with summaries and advice on climate problems. Its 1990 assessment report spurred governments to create the UNFCCC.

UNFCCC, joined by 189 countries, is a treaty aiming to reduce global warming by stabilizing concentrations of greenhouse gases. It "places the heaviest burden for fighting climate change on industrialized nations, since they are the source of most past and current greenhouse gas emissions."

Since 1850, North America and Europe have produced about 70 percent of carbon dioxide emissions from energy production, says IPCC.

UNFCCC required industrialized nations and 12 "economies in transition" (from Central and Eastern Europe and states formerly belonging to the Soviet Union) to reduce emissions to 1990 levels by 2000. They succeeded as a group.

The treaty also provides for the channeling of grants and loans to poor countries so the latter can help address the problem.

Kyoto Protocol

In December 1997, a number of countries adopted the text of the Kyoto Protocol, a more far-reaching treaty which entered into force on Feb. 16, 2005.

The Kyoto Protocol gave emission targets to industrialized countries that accepted it (the US, one of the largest energy consumers in the world, withdrew during George W. Bush's first term) "with a view to reducing the overall emissions of such gases by at least 5 percent below existing 1990 levels in the commitment period 2008 to 2012." The targets varied from nation to nation.

The treaty's Clean Development Mechanism allows developing countries to host emission reduction projects and sell their reduction credits to industrialized countries to help the latter meet their targets. The Philippines ratified the Kyoto accord in 2003.

However, experts say carbon dioxide remains in the atmosphere for two centuries. "[A]fter 150 years of industrialization, global warming has momentum, and it will continue to affect the earth's natural systems for hundreds of years even if greenhouse gas emissions are reduced and atmospheric levels stop rising," says the UNFCCC.

What you can do

Here's how to start:

- You can reduce your carbon emissions
- Buy energy-efficient appliances, light bulbs
- Recycle
- If you can, buy a hybrid car
- When you can, walk or ride a bicycle
- Where you can, use light rail + mass transit
- Tell your parents not to ruin the world that you will live in
- If you are a parent, join with your children to save the world you will live in
- Switch to renewable sources of energy
- Call your power company to see if they offer green energy. If they don't, ask them why not
- Vote for leaders who pledge to solve this crisis
- Write to Congress. If they don't listen, run for Congress
- Plant trees, lots of trees
- Speak up in your community
- Call radio shows and write newspapers
- Join international efforts to stop global warming
- Reduce dependence on foreign oil; help farmers grow alcohol fuels
- Raise fuel economy standards; require lower emissions from automobiles
- If you believe in prayer, pray that people will find the strength to change. In the words of the old African proverb, when you pray, move your feet
- Encourage everyone you know to see this move
- Learn as much as you can about the climate crisis. Then put your knowledge into action

SOURCE: AL GORE'S OSCAR-NOMINATED DOCUMENTARY "AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH." FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO WWW.CLIMATECRISIS.NET.

More intense typhoons to visit the Philippines

By Kate Pedroso
Inquirer Research

THE EFFECTS OF GLOBAL warming are now felt in the Philippines.

"We already have the signals," said Lourdes Tibig, supervising weather specialist at the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration's (Pagasa) Climatology and Agrometeorology branch.

She said higher daily mean temperatures were one of the primary signs. "There is a trend of increasing, warmer daytime temperature, and there's also a trend of increasing nighttime temperature," she said.

Over the past five decades, there has been a slight increase in mean temperatures on all islands—almost half a centigrade degree, according to Tibig.

She said there were also noticeable changes in the characteristics of tropical cyclones.

A report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change by the UN (IPCC) said "with high confidence" that extreme climate events such as tropical cyclones were increasing in temperate and tropical Asia.

"The finding has manifested itself in the Philippines through the more frequent occurrence of severe El Niño and La Niña events, as well as deadly and damaging typhoons," Greenpeace said in a 2005 paper, "Crisis or Opportunity: Climate change impact and the Philippines."

These changes affect, first and foremost, the agricultural sector. "When temperatures continuously increase, our crops are affected. The harvests will decrease, and it might be that we can't produce enough to sustain food security," Tibig said.

From hereon, the effects seem to start spreading like ripples in a pond.

Water supply and public health are also affected. "When many people don't have access to clean water, they might use water that is unsafe, which is why we have incidences of diarrhea," said Tibig.

In studies with the Department of Health on monitoring extreme climate events and their impact on public health, Pagasa found that when high temperatures and humidity occur, outbreaks such as dengue and malaria happen.

"Projected climate change will be accompanied by an increase in heat waves, often exacerbated by increased humidity and urban air pollution, which would cause an increase in heat-related deaths and illnesses," the IPCC said. "The evidence indicates that the impact would be greatest in urban populations, affecting particularly the elderly, sick, and those without access to air-conditioning."

Water shortage inevitably affects the operation of dams, power generation and irrigation systems.

The impact of climate change on coastal zones and marine ecosystems is apparent. Massive coral bleaching in many reefs in the country were observed in 1998, according to Greenpeace, as a result of higher sea temperatures brought about by El Niño in 1997 and 1998.

In addition, there is the threat of rising sea levels, which puts communities near the coast in danger of being wiped out. "How big is the coastal area of the Philippines? How will these coastal communities cope? We don't have what it takes to build seawalls," said Tibig.

"There is also the possibility that we would lose our agricultural lands in coastal areas when the sea water encroaches upon them, so we can no longer grow crops."

An archipelago, the country has about 17,000 kilometers of coastline.

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Urban poor leader killed in Samar town

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE KILLINGS IN SAMAR CONTINUED WITH the death of an urban poor leader in Hinabangan town on Friday night. A gunman shot Sixto Azilan, 47, last Friday at around 11 p.m., while the victim was inside a videoke bar in Barangay Mugto, less than a kilometer away from the Hinabangan town proper, Eastern Visayas police regional director Chief Supt. Eliseo de la Paz said. Three other persons accompanied the gunman, he added.

Azilan was hit in his chest and abdomen. His companion, Rey De Luna, was also shot in the abdomen and was recuperating in a city hospital.

De la Paz said one of the angles they were considering as the reason behind the killing is the victim's work as an urban poor organizer.

Azilan was an area coordinator of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

De la Paz said that Hinabangan police chief Insp. Maximo Manicani told him that the police have arrested and detained three of the four alleged suspects.

The regional police chief, however, could not give details, such as the identities of the arrested men and the kind of weapon used in killing Azilan.

The victim's wife Aniway said she was informed of her husband's death by one "Joy" who served as a waitress at the sing-along bar.

"Joy told me that one of the four suspects aimed his gun at my husband and shot him several times. He fled right away using the main entrance of the sing-along bar while his companions exited through the back door of the said establishment," she said in an interview.

The victim was brought to the Divine Word University Hospital in Tacloban City, but physicians declared him dead on arrival. Hinabangan is 70 km away from Tacloban City.

Aniway said her husband was involved in the Hinabangan Alliance for Livelihood and Development (Halad), of which she, too, is a member.

Azilan's involvement in community organizations in Hinabangan and nearby towns, like Catbalogan, had prompted the Army's 8th Infantry Division, then under the leadership of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, to "invite" the slain Azilan for questioning, Aniway said.

She, however, denied that her late husband was a member of any militant or progressive groups.

"He just wanted to help the poor people. He was a very generous man," she said in an interview at the St. Peter Funeral Home, this city.

Azilan's widow appealed to the police authorities to help them solve the case.

Solon to meet with Comelec on spate of killings in Samar

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—DESPITE A SERIES OF killings in Samar, the Commission on Elections in Eastern Visayas does not plan to place the province under its control or classify it as an "area of concern."

Comelec regional director Adolfo Ibañez said they have yet to establish that the killings were related to the May 2007 elections.

But Samar Rep. Catalino Figueroa said he would meet with Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos within the week to discuss possible courses of action.

Ibañez said that while the situation in Samar is a cause for alarm, they have yet to establish that the killings were politically related, a ground for the body to put it under its control or supervision.

"We only place an area under our direct control or supervision or declare it as an area of concern if the situation could adversely affect the conduct of the elections or there is really too much tension related to elections," Ibañez said in an interview.

During the 2004 elections, the Comelec identified Catbalogan and 18 other towns in the province as "areas of concern" due to the tensions arising from politics, as well as the killing of Tarangnan Mayor Aniceto Olaje and the abduction of Jiabong Mayor Chanita Gabieta.

In January alone, five high-profile killings took place in different parts of Samar, including the killing of Daram Mayor Benito Astorga.

The NPA operating in the province had owned up to the killing of Astorga during a benefit dance in Barangay Benirawon on Jan. 25.

Last Monday, two motorcycle-riding armed men gunned down Bayan Muna member Dominador De Luna, 50, in Catbalogan. His wife, Concepcion is the provincial coordinator of Bayan Muna and a provincial board member.

On Jan. 17, Augusto Daclitan, 53, a former member of the New People's Army and provincial coordinator of the anticommunism group Alliance of Nationalism and Democracy was gunned down also in Catbalogan. Two days later, a "military asset" Alfonso Sabillo, 48, was also killed.

A village chieftain, Bedasto Gabiana, in his 50s, was gunned down inside his retail store in Barangay Calapi of Jiabong town.

Ibañez said he has urged the police authorities in Samar, under Senior Supt. Asdali Abah, and the Philippine Army, under Maj. Gen. Rodrigo Maciang, commanding general of the 8th Infantry Division, based in Catbalogan, to find solutions to the killings.

Abah, reached on his mobile phone, said that they were doing their best to stop the killings. He said he supported Ibanez's decision not to place the province under its control.

Figueroa, however, disagreed with the Comelec stand. "I might just ask him (Abalos) to place the province or some of its areas under its control and supervision. This would somehow lessen or solve killings there and give our people peace of mind and a feeling of security," Figueroa said.

DENR chief to check Lafayette's compliance with gov't conditions

SORSOGON CITY—AUSTRALIAN MINING firm Lafayette Philippines Inc. welcomed the scheduled visit of Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to its mine site in Rapu-Rapu, Albay tomorrow to check the company's compliance to the conditions set by the government for its continued operation.

In a statement, Lafayette said Reyes' visit would expedite the assessment and evaluation of the environmental safety measures installed at the mine site.

Reyes had set a visit to Rapu-Rapu Island to personally assess the company's compliance, which would be used as basis whether or not to lift the cease-and-desist order (CDO) the government had imposed following two toxic spills in late 2005.

The mining company had earlier filed a request for the permanent lifting of the CDO, saying it had fully complied with the pre-conditions.

Lawyer Bayani Agabin, Lafayette spokesperson, said the company had submitted a report to Reyes' office detailing the compliance made by the company as required by the Pollution Adjudication Board.

Agabin said one major component of the safety measure they had initiated was the increase in the depth of the tailings dam from 121 meters to 145 meters to ensure that nothing spills out again.

"We had 'Milenyo,' 'Reming' and 'Seniang' last year but all the waters generated by the typhoons plus the heavy rains that followed were all contained by the dam and nothing spilled," Agabin told the INQUIRER in a mobile phone interview.

The lawyer said a system had also been put in place that will allow the management to immediately react on any emergency like earthquakes and other unforeseen circumstances.

He also welcomed the members of a third party observer group which is expected to accompany the DENR secretary.

Agabin said measures were also now being taken to obtain an ISO 14001 certification, which would further guarantee the safety of all the systems installed by Lafayette. *Bobby Q. Labalan, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

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Review centers face deaths in new CHEd rules

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—NEW GOVERNMENT guidelines regulating the operations of nursing review centers are supposed to offer closure to the board cheating scandal that hit the nursing profession last year.

But operators of review centers servicing engineering, criminology, accountancy, medicine and education graduates said the implementing rules and regulations covering all review and tutorial operations in the country were actually drawn up to kill their industry.

Executive Order 566 authorized the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) to supervise the operations of all review centers shortly after a group of Baguio examinees exposed cheating during the June 2006 nursing board examinations.

Two nursing review firms who have branches in Baguio were implicated in the fraud that arose from the nursing licensure exposé, "so we anticipated that the government would soon conduct a crackdown on all review centers," said Petronillo Ballesca, owner of the Baguio Review Center and Services, which offers review classes for graduates of engineering courses.

Before EO 566 was released, no government agency administered review schools.

But CHEd Memorandum Order 49, which outlines the new rules, asks all review centers to pay exorbitant fees and hire only highly trained teachers to continue operating, Ballesca said.

He said he is recruiting Baguio reviewers to join the Review Centers Association of the Philippines (Recap) based in Metro Manila so they can challenge the memorandum order in court next month.

"We know this started with two [big] review firms, but we never expected the government to also attack even small review firms which had nothing to do with that cheating scandal," he said.

Noreen Daoayen, Baguio chapter president of the Philippine Nurses Association and one of the whistle-blowers in the cheating scandal, said the new rules were not what they had expected.

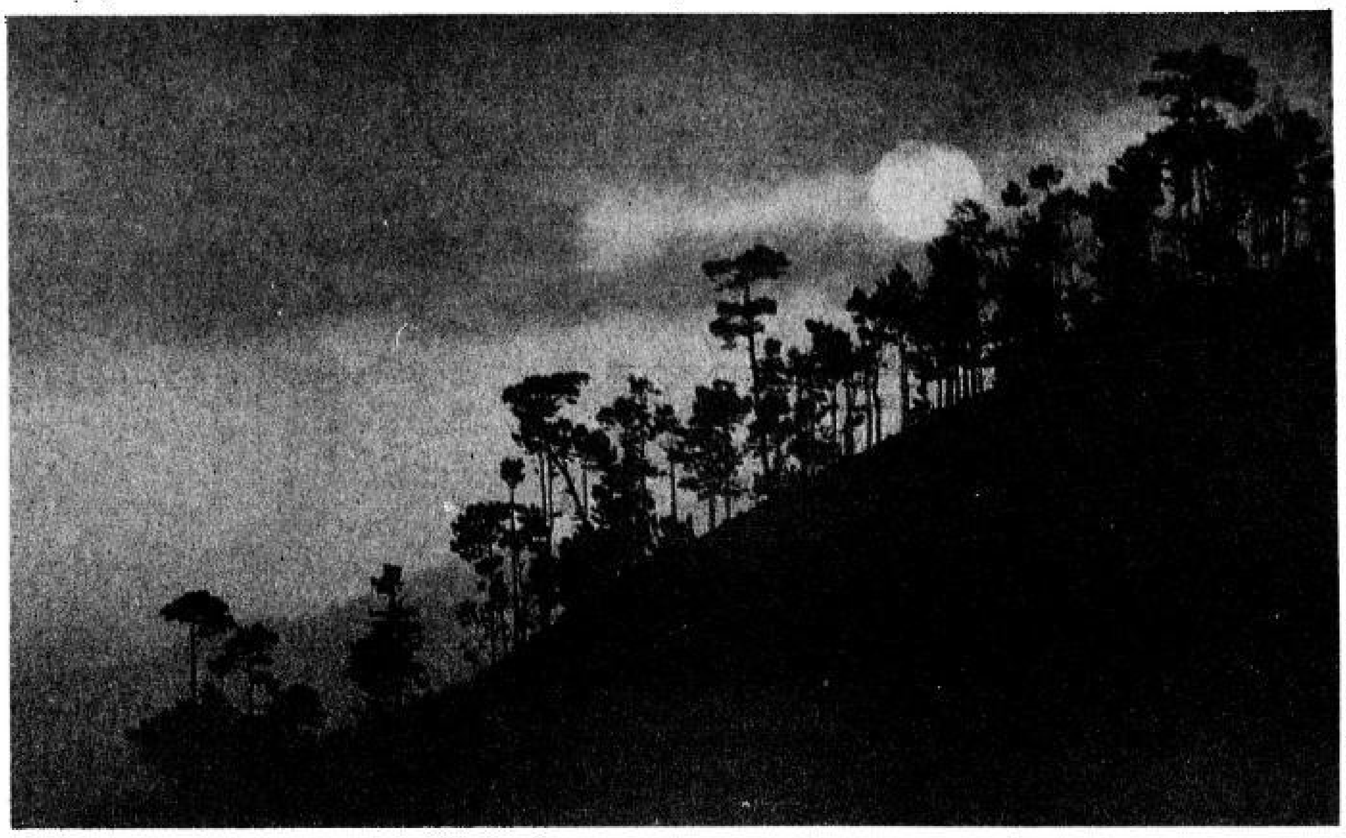
Daoayen said Baguio nursing school deans, local PNA members and the 92 nursing graduates who sued to freeze the June 2006 licensure test results wanted the government to control the review centers after they discovered clients of a review center distributing documents showing the examination questions and answers.

Recap apprised Margarita Jasmin, CHEd Cordillera director, about its concerns on Jan. 29 when she presented the new rules to local schools.

Jasmin said she would relay Recap's concerns to CHEd Chair Carlito Puno, who supervised the drafting of the directive.

"I wouldn't have minded if we were to be placed under government supervision but these new rules harass our operations. [These] attack our right to free enterprise. The rules appeared to have been drafted purposely to hurt everyone but the big players in the review business," Ballesca said.

A local instructor told the INQUIRER that the guidelines required her to pay P400,000 should she decide to conduct independent review classes.



EV ESPIRITU/INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

COLD FRONT
Temperatures dropped to a low of 5 degrees Celsius in the pine tree-filled mountains and farms along Atok Trail, which links vegetable farms in Benguet. Residents still felt the chill despite layers of coats and blankets. The cold spell has induced frost that blanketed vegetable farms in Atok, Benguet.

Strong winds save Benguet veggies from frost

LA TRINIDAD, BENGUET—THE province's farmers would rather have wind burn than frozen vegetable farms.

For the second straight day, farmers in Buguias, Kibungan and Atok towns said strong winds stopped frost from forming in their farms as temperatures dropped to 9.6 degrees Celsius on Friday.

Farmers in Mankayan town, however, also complained that frost hit the sub-village of Cada in Barangay Balili, an area known for its potato farms.

But the provincial agriculture office said there is nothing to worry about as the frost that swept the four towns did little damage since most of the vegetables were already harvested.

"Some of the farms hit by frost were being prepared for planting while those planted were saved from frost through the use of 'rain bursts,'" said Lolita Bentres, provincial agriculturist.

"Rain bursts" are rotating overhead irrigation sprinklers that farmers in Benguet use to water their upland farms.

Bentres on Thursday sent teams to the villages of Paoay, Cattubo and Abiang in Atok town, Madaymen in Kibungan, and Sinipsip and Natubleng in Buguias to investigate the extent of frost damage.

"The inspection was necessary to avoid creating the false impression that the Jan. 31 frost affected vegetable supply," she said.

"False reports will have a bad effect on the market," she added.

At the vegetable trading post in this capital town, reports about the frost did not bother traders as transactions went normal this week.

Dominador Dongla, chief market inspector, said vegetable prices and supply remained normal.

The Benguet Farmers Federation Inc. asked Metro Manila's vegetable dealers not to take advantage of reports on the frost to create a false gap of vegetable supply from Benguet.

"The frost was just an incident. It would be unfair to use the frost as a reason to raise prices or to import vegetables," Loreto Buyaan, BFFI public relations officer, said.

Only Atok Mayor Concepcion Balao has announced the estimated damage caused by the frost on the town's vegetable farms.

Balao said the frost destroyed close to P10 million worth of vegetables in Atok.

She said between half an inch to an inch of frost covered farms in Barangay Paoay on Jan. 31 and not 1.5 inches as earlier reported.

Mayors Thomas Palileng of Buguias, Murphy Paayas of Kibungan and Manalo Galuten of Mankayan said they would need three days more to determine the extent of damage on their vegetable farms. *Delmar Cariño, Inquirer Northern Luzon*

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When soldiers get in way of people's health

By Jeffrey M. Tupas
Davao City

A COMMUNITY HEALTH worker in Misamis Occidental, who was a part of a team conducting a Mindanao-wide health research, was abducted, allegedly by military intelligence agents, early last year.

THIS CHILD in Sitio Landig in the village of Sibulan in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, is one of the casualties of government neglect to deliver basic health services to the people.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The abductors not only grilled him but also physically tortured him before he was set free.

During the interrogation, he was shown a list containing the names of leaders of progressive organizations and party-list groups in the province. Days after, two of those on the list were killed.

Fearing for his life, the health worker left Mindanao.

Fear also stopped a colleague from continuing her volunteer work. She found out that her name was in the alleged military's death list—the Order of Battle (OB).

In Tandag, Surigao del Sur, 29-year-old Marlene Maraquiza decided to give up her task as a community health worker after her husband Hermilito was attacked and shot dead inside their house on the night of Aug. 20, 2006, making him the 37th victim of political killings in Mindanao last year.

The names of Hermilito, a leader of a local peasant organization, and Marlene were allegedly on the military's OB list. Days before he was killed, Hermilito was asked by the military to "surrender."

'Militarization'

Dani Beltran, project coordinator of the Mindanao Project Management Desk of the Council for Health Development (CHD), said the state of health of the people in Mindanao worsened not only because of government neglect but also because of "militarization" in many parts of the island.

This was apparent in the research conducted by Beltran's group, which was assisted by the Aid Uprooted Program of the European Union, in 38 communities in eight cities and 16 provinces of Mindanao from July to September last year.

Beltran said the health of the people in Mindanao—Moros, *lumad* (indigenous) and Christians—was in crisis following their community diagnosis of perceived health problems of 3,579 respondents.

The study was part of the project called "Bringing Health into the Hands of the People." Covered were Agusan del Sur, Agusan del Norte, Bukidnon, Camiguin, Compostela Valley, Davao del Sur, Davao del Norte, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Misamis Occidental, Misamis Oriental, Sarangani, South Cotabato, Surigao del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Zamboanga del Norte.

It focused on the perception of the respondents of their own condition and the delivery of health services in their areas.

Very grim realities

As the group noted the perceptions, its members saw the significant realities, some of them very grim, that surrounded the issue of people's health and the government's response.

"We have seen the extent of abandonment by the government of its responsibility to deliver health services to the people ... and we have seen and experienced the obvious—that in Mindanao, there are more military operatives with their guns and bullets than medicines and health workers," Beltran said.

Carlos Atten, chair of the Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma sa Sibulan (United Farmers Association of Sibulan) in Barangay Sibulan, Sta. Cruz in Davao del Sur, attested to how health workers faced difficulty in entering their village because the military disallowed it.

Village officials, he said, even disregarded the "authority" given by top leaders of the local government and instead gave more weight to the decision of the military in the area. Only after the intervention of the Sta. Cruz Municipal Health Office were the health workers allowed to enter and conduct the research.

"They were tagged as NPA (New People's Army) by the military, that's why they were barred from entering the village. The negotiation took us very long," Atten said.

'No clearance, no entry'

Beltran said some military troops implemented a "no clearance, no entry" policy for nongovernment organizations that were not in their list of accredited organizations.

"Military propaganda has created a mindset among the people in the communities that NGOs, which are not endorsed by the military, are fronts for the recruitment of NPA," Beltran said.

"The Mindanao people's health condition coexists with a social landscape that shows bombing operations, political killings, hamleting, subservience of the civilian authorities to the policies imposed by the military and different forms of human rights violations. This situation aggravates the already critical condition of the health care delivery system in Mindanao," Beltran said.

With militarization, the next big thing that deprives the people of basic health services is the government's neglect of health in its priority projects.

For 2007, Congress approved only P438.874 million for health services from its P1.126-trillion national budget or about 0.04 percent.

Because of this, Beltran said, at least 219 of the 397 death incidents in the areas surveyed from June 2005 to June 2006 were not given medical attention.

He added that the lack of importance given by the national and local government to basic health services led to the miseducation of the people and even death.

Perceived diseases

The study revealed that hypertension, although known as just a symptom of an existing disease, was perceived as the No. 1 "sickness" in poor communities, comprising 36 percent or 830 of the 3,579 respondents.

Next was asthma, which comprised 30.4 percent.

Beltran said the focus group discussions in the communities where hypertension was seen as high showed that the symptoms might have been caused by the food the respondents ate regularly, such as dried fish and fish paste.

The study also revealed that 15 percent were not aware of the causes of their diseases. Other disturbing facts from the study:

- Only eight of 100 pregnant women were seen by a doctor.
- Six of 10 child births take place at home without the assistance of a health professional.
- Mothers cannot breastfeed their babies.
- One of 10 mothers was not aware of any family planning method.
- Two to three of 10 persons who complained of dental problems resorted to self-medication. And only one got a treatment from a dentist.
- The Department of Health project's "Botika sa Barangay" did not reach the communities and eight of 10 barangays did not have drugstores.
- There was no doctor in the barangays. Government midwives were seldom seen in remote villages. There were people in far-flung areas who have not seen a nurse in their whole life.
- Five of 10 death incidents were not given medical attention.

Preventable

Beltran said the diseases perceived by the people were actually preventable.

"The signs and symptoms of these diseases do not need specialized treatment but can be managed by first-line defense employing primary health care. Yet, due to poverty and inadequate health services, the symptoms became chronic and incurable," Beltran said.

"A case in point is hypertension, which is just a symptom of cardiovascular disease. But the families of peasants, farmers, and national minorities who comprise the majority of Mindanao's population are not capable of eliminating the symptoms of these heart-related diseases," he added.

He said the signs and symptoms of common diseases found in the community diagnosis were natural effects of the insufficient income of the salaried and the wage-earners, joblessness, landlessness, and other forms of poverty in the rural areas.

"Health facilities in the communities are very limited. A health unit with a blood pressure apparatus is considered lucky enough compared to other communities whose health center is only characterized by a structure minus the personnel and health paraphernalia," Beltran said.

"While the national government drumbeats its flagship programs on health, the health of the people continues to deteriorate. While it sings its own praises on the number of Botika sa Barangay it has established, most of the villages in Mindanao do not have access to essential medicines."

Jonathan Placido, president of the Employees Association of Regional Health Office-Southern Mindanao, said the DOH could not be faulted for the inability of the government to deliver basic services.

The delivery of health services to the people is actually the responsibility of the local governments after the devolution of power to the local government, he said.

> The condition in which people live and work help create or destroy their health—
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SUPRAGLOTTIC MASS After one month Endoscopy was done. It was observed that, there is an absence of any lesion in the supraglottis. No mass noted at CT Scan

NPCA - Endoscopy showed Nasopharyngeal Mass Biopsy revealed Squamous Cell Carcinoma

NPCA -Regression of Tumor. - No tumor recurrence for 6 months

Belgian clowns show laughter has no borders

From page A1

ents, was mesmerized. Some screamed, others doubled up in laughter with the clown's antics.

Dressed in a fetching fuchsia jumpsuit, the clown introduced himself, "Gaultier Jansen, from Belgium."

He added, with the slightest hint of a French accent, "*Walang problema* (No problem)," to loud cheers.

Jansen and his group are members of *Clowns et Magicians sans Frontieres* or CMSF (Clowns and Magicians Without Borders), an international association of clowns touring the world, performing for children in war-torn areas and depressed communities for free. It has chapters in the United States, Canada, Sweden, France, and other countries.

However, last Thursday, the group chose to visit the slums hidden in Better Living Subdivision (BLS) in Parañaque, where shanties of cardboard and rusted GI sheets stand a few meters away from houses made of stone and concrete.

Their stage? The Camella creekside bridge.

"Most people would think that this subdivision is just for rich people. But there are many poor families here who live along the creek and in the side streets," Pilipinas Buenaventura, staff of the Urchin Street Kids, said.

Urchin Street Kids is a foundation based within the subdivision catering to the needs of street children in the area.

Urchins had wanted to invite CMSF as early as 2004 to perform for their wards, but the traveling clowns had been booked solid.

They promised, however, to return in two years time, for a month-long tour. And they did, early this month, much to the delight of the kids.

Mission

Coaxing laughter out of children is no easy task even for a Filipino clown, and Jansen knows this well, since he has to work with the fact that he speaks only 10 Filipino phrases.

"It's also a mission for us to try to speak a few words in the language of the country where we're performing," the 29-year-old stage actor said.

He bravely belted out words like "*walang problema*," "*ginoo* (sir)," "*maraming salamat* (thank you)," "*gutom na ako* (I'm hungry)," "*kamusta ka* (how are you)," "*payaso* (clown)," and "*basura* (trash)."

Like magic

Jansen and fellow CMSF clown Celine Riesen met a few years ago in theater school, and since joining the group in 2005, they have been performing for children in Kenya, Thailand, Cambodia and Indonesia.

The language divide is one of the many problems that they have to contend with in each country.

FUN TIME FOR STREET CHILDREN: At a slum area in Parañaque City, Belgian clowns Risen Celine and Jansen Gauthier do their act to squeals of delight while at the same time bringing home a message about keeping the environment clean. EDWIN BACASMAS

At the start of the show, the brown-haired Riesen sang something in gibberish and beckoned her audience to sing with her. Despite not understanding what she was singing, the children and their parents sang back—also in gibberish.

"It's really simple; I sing then they sing. It's just a way to harmonize so they are with us. And then we do magic, it's not really magic, but just our hands," the 29-year-old Riesen explained.

"We build the show so everyone can understand it. We try to work on universal language; we [want to evoke] simple emotions from children," she added.

Simple emotions, Jansen explained in a mixture of halting English and French, were universally recognized feelings such as fear, joy, anger, sadness, disgust and surprise.

Tickle any of these emotions by muttering neither English, Filipino nor French to an audience, and "the laugh is the same all over the world," Riesen said.

CMSF is not only a non-profit group of traveling clowns, but also funnymen with advocacies.

Mock fight

For their Philippine tour, they chose to make puppets and props out of plastic bags, scraps of wood and trash.

During the hour-long show at the Camella creekside bridge in BLS Thursday afternoon, poor parents and their children laughed whenever Jansen pretended to pick a fight with Riesen.

A grandmother with a toothless smile commented, "*Kawawa naman yung lalake* (Pity the male clown)," when Riesen pretended to slap Jansen on the back of his head.

The two clowns were both laying claim to the title of "*Ako, tagalinis* (I'm the cleaner)," alternately shoving each other in a mock-fight while uttering the words.

White plastic bags littered the makeshift stage made of old wooden planks. Riesen picked up the trash while Jansen scattered them.

"We wanted to find a common ground between the children and us. We thought of plastic bags. The problem of garbage is all over the world. We also have this problem in Europe," Riesen said.

Clean performance

At a previous performance, the pair coaxed children into stuffing trash into plastic bags. Then they painted faces on the stuffed bags, an improvised puppet costing no more than a few centavos.

"It's funny! They were cleaning without knowing they were cleaning!" Jansen said.

Their next stop is Cebu, where they will also perform for other poor, world-weary Pinoy children.

"Filipino children are great. They are very curious, smart, and they want to exchange what they have [with us]," Jansen said.

Buenaventura agreed, saying that even with the cultural and language barriers, the two Belgian clowns and their audience seemed to understand each other perfectly.

Best reward

At the end of the show, the children, numbering around a hundred, presented the two clowns with pictures they had drawn on bond paper. A boy was lucky enough to receive a red rubber nose from a grateful Jansen, who propped it on the kid's nose with glee.

For the duo, the mission of being bearers of laughter is no mean task that they are willing to undertake for free. They believe being a clown is its own best reward.

"Onstage, I sometimes [get] tired, but I see the kids' smiles and [hear their] laughter. I receive heaps of energy when I feel they understand [me]. It makes me feel happy," Riesen said, smiling.

Jansen nodded in mock-seriousness and said: "Now that's our salary."

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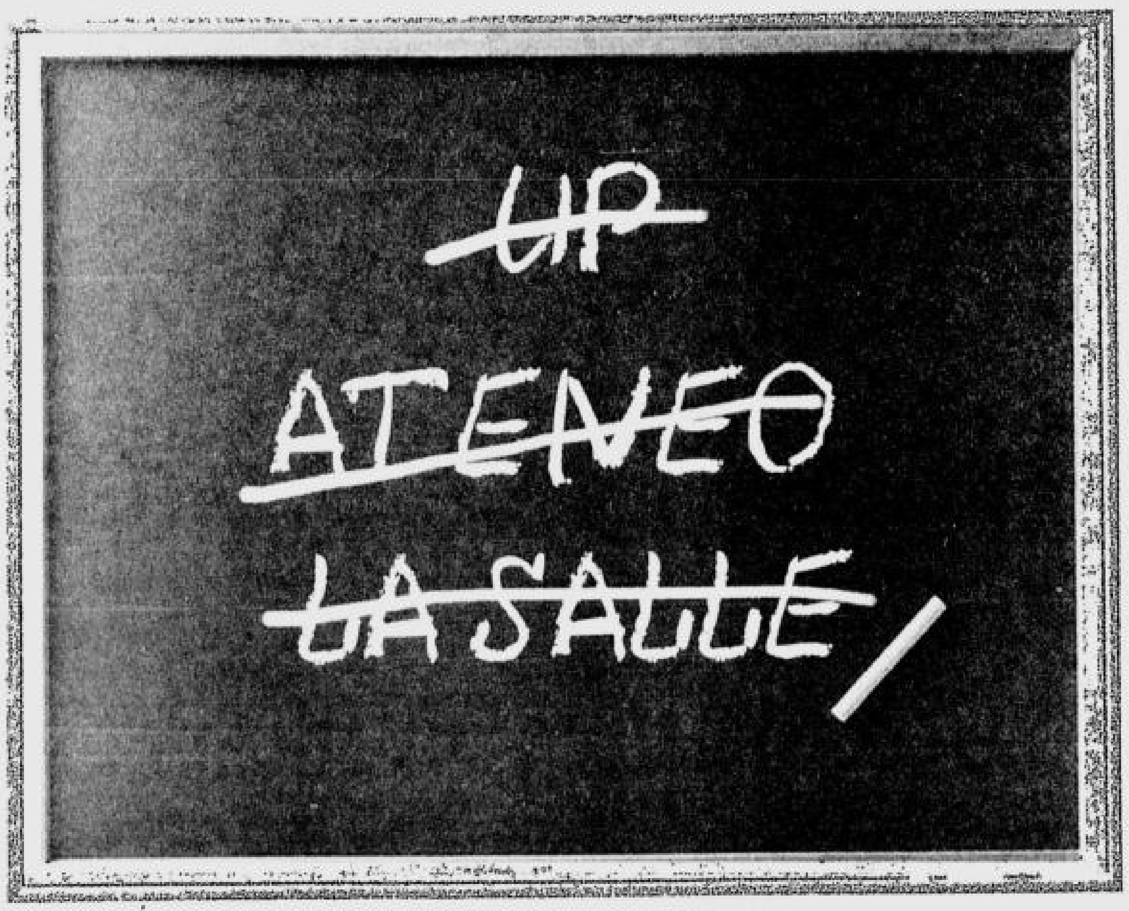

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Chill brings out winter fashion of Baguio folk

From page A1

And faux fur-lined coats and leather jackets, which did not catch the interest of residents even during the chilly yearend holidays, are suddenly in demand, according to sales personnel of department stores and *ukay-ukay* (used clothing) shops.

Some Korean residents have come out dressed in chic winter garments. Korean schoolchildren are seen walking alongside their mothers wearing furry coats.

At Fort Del Pilar yesterday, visitors arrived in woolen outfits (although Philippine Military Academy cadets went about their business dressed in their customary gray suits).

"We heard it would be cold, but not *this* cold," said a tourist who watched the cadets' parade.

20-percent increase

Baguio experienced its lowest temperature in three years on Jan. 31, when the mercury dropped to 9 degrees Celsius. Yesterday, the temperature was 9.8 degrees.

There has been a 20-percent increase in coat and jacket sales since Jan. 29.

May Ruth, 27, a manager of an *ukay-ukay* shop on Session Road, said only a few of her jackets had been selling for years "because people here did not seem to have the need for really thick ones."

But now, she said, teenagers, office workers, saleswomen and even policemen had started buying and wearing her jackets.

Arlene, an overseas Filipino worker who co-owns another *ukay-ukay* shop, said she noticed that Baguio had become warmer when she arrived a few years ago.

"So when the temperature dropped, I was also very much aware that this was unusual," she said.

Arlene said that in a recent trip to Divisoria's famed markets, she noted that jackets were selling briskly.

"It was also cold [in Manila], so I could imagine the need of Baguio residents [for warm clothing]," she said.

Arlene also said she found it "interesting" that Baguio folk were now experiencing the "Christmas and New Year weather" that her parents experienced in the past—"and we're experiencing it when the Chinese celebrate their New Year this month."

Sellers' market

A department store owner said the cold spell had caught her off-guard.

"I could have capitalized on it. I could have marked down some brand-name jackets and made a killing," she said.

These days, city folk are often seen gathered on park sidewalks where traders in used clothes have been allowed to display their wares.

According to Arlene, this is because traders there still sell jackets and turtleneck sweaters for as low as P100 and only as high as P250.

The winter weather has also been a boon to Baguio's knitters, who find their gloves and bonnets selling briskly for P25.

Said one: "We do our knitting only at home, and we never sell this much even during Christmas. The business that this cold spell has brought us is surprising."

Not fashion

It's not fashion that is driving up the demand because the coats used by people seen on Session Road rarely match their outfits, said fashion consultant Eros Goze.

"Fashion will always be sacrificed to good health," he said.

May Ruth sells only women's clothes, particularly blazers, and these are now "in great demand."

"Men are usually picky, and very stingy when it comes to buying clothes. Now hooded parkas and thick brown jackets are also popular, and I have male clients coming over," she said.

But May Ruth's clients do not ask for brand-name garments: "They simply look for thick jackets that have hoods and that will suit their office uniforms."

Brand-name garments are still being sold by some *ukay-ukay* shops, "but that's for the benefit of tourists," she said.

Father of 'baby' . . .

From page A1

Immaculate Heart of Mary (CICM) in 1992, not long after the fall of communist Russia.

They had been sent by the Vatican's Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples on a mission *sui iuris*, meaning an independent mission intended for remote areas with very few Catholics.

In the case of Mongolia, there wasn't a single Catholic believer at the time of the Padilla mission.

Catholic evangelization first came to Mongolia in the 13th century but had achieved no significant presence and permanence until the arrival of the three CICM priests.

Padilla, accompanied by Filipino Fr. Gilbert Sales and a Belgian missionary, arrived with only a clear purpose and bundles of dollars (Vatican money) strapped around their waists.

"We started from scratch," Padilla said. "We knew nothing about Mongolia. We knew no one. We didn't even speak the language."

A new life and a strange environment greeted the missionary trio. Animals roamed free in the streets and Mongolians didn't seem to care, according to the bishop.

Buildings were cracked, colorless and had seen better days.

Toilets, soiled with human waste of weeks past, needed better care from people who'd been used to life in the steppes.

Simply put, the atmosphere offered little hope even to Padilla who had spent 15 years doing similar missionary work in Taiwan.

For months, Padilla and his fellow priests were saddled with the nitty-gritty of domestic life—from marketing to cooking to washing their own clothes.

Weather was anything but cooperative, especially for the two Filipinos whose bodies were used to the tropics. The long winter was bitterly cold with summer offering the small consolation of an air-conditioned room.

The strategy for evangelization required no obtrusive proselytizing, Padilla said. Besides, he was convinced that "God had already been in Mongolia long before we arrived."

"We were just collaborators in establishing his kingdom in Mongolia," the bishop explained.

Social work

Consistent with the theological principle of "life witnessing," Padilla decided that action should be the main communicator of the Gospel message.

They began with social work involving street children sheltered inside manholes and under stairwells. Many of them had sneaked on trains to escape parental abuse in the grasslands.

Today, around 120 children are housed under the Verbist Care Center, which also offers food and medical assistance to other vagrants.

This effort blazed the trail for related social work by other foreign missions—the soup kitchen and care centers by the Missionaries of Charity and youth centers by the Salesians and Fidei Donum priests from South Korea.

By this time, Padilla and his peers had learned to speak the local language, which allowed for better evangelization.

Learning the language

It was no easy task, of course. Imagine, for instance, saying *bairlalaa*, which means "thank you." Its pronunciation wasn't far from the sound a horse would make.

By learning the language, the priests began communicating the idea that the Catholic faith and its values were universal even to a distant culture like Mongolia's.

Another Filipino priest came up with a Mongolian version of the "Lord's Prayer," which Padilla would sing fluently during Mass.

Included in the aspect of "faith inculturation" was the distinct Mongolian way of greeting.

During the Mass, when asked to give a sign of peace, parishioners hold each other's elbows with both arms.

New Catholics

In the beginning, not more than 10 people gathered for Sunday Mass and they were composed mostly of Catholic expats in Mongolia.

Padilla said these people began gravitating around the three-person mission soon after they learned there was a Catholic Mass available.

They had previously attended Protestant services, the closest to a Catholic celebration in the Buddhist country.

The missionary work bore fruit in 1995 with the baptism of 18 Mongolians that included office and factory workers and teachers.

The young church has since averaged 15 to 20 conversions annually, the number jumping to between 50 and 60 in the past three years, according to Padilla.

Long way to go

Still, the young church has a long way to go.

As an apostolic prefecture, it generates no money of its own. The church survives on financial goodwill from international benefactors and the Vatican.

Among the Mongolians who have formally embraced the faith between 1995 and 2005, only 35 percent regularly attend liturgies and activities, according to Padilla.

Some have moved to other Christian denominations, seemingly relating their nomadic way of life to their faith.

"We have to admit that for some of them, joining a new religion is a matter of curiosity, like learning a new language, or finding a ticket to success," the bishop said. "It's like they're collecting affiliations just to say they belong to this or that church."

Padilla knows "this mentality can be changed through education."

Three of his wards had been sent to Italy to study Theology and Philosophy. Another one is working on his master's degree in Catechism.

Padilla also sent scholars to St. Louis University in Baguio City, his alma mater.

In time, he knows these people will comprise an empowered laity that will help nurture the "baby" church in Mongolia.

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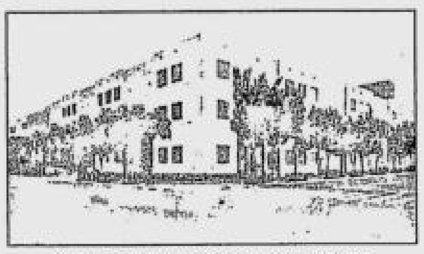

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2nd Place	Dervid S. Jungco
3rd Place	Ma. Sophia Francesca D. Cruz
6th Place	Claudette L. De Castro
7th Place	John Mark V. Gonzales
9th Place	Diana E. Mahinay Madilyn L. Villanueva
10th Place	Annabelle B. Areola Ma. Visitacion R. Manese

MEDICINE TOPNOTCHERS
FEBRUARY 2006

1st Place	Mary Joy Coner, MD
2nd Place	Sergio Apdo, Jr., MD
4th Place	Joy Lourdes Dacumos, MD
5th Place	Ferdinand Lunaria, MD
10th Place	Eirene Mapile, MD

MEDICINE
CONSISTENT 1ST PLACERS
Amapola Dumlao, MD (Feb 2002)
Loubomir Antonio, MD (Feb 2003)
Joselito Javier, MD (Aug 2003)
Elmer Jacinto, MD (Feb 2004)
Christopher Chang, MD (Feb 2005)
Mary Joy Coner, MD (Feb 2006)

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LOVE-LOVE Tioseco says that whenever she gets the chance, she talks young women into going into bike racing. RAFFY LERMA

Woman in the fast lane

By DJ Yap

TALES OF THE CITY

WITH HER HAIR DYED THE COLOR OF strawberry and softly framing her face, Love-Love Tioseco cut quite a figure as she straddled her prized possession: A rare, black Ducati Superbike Ayrton, Senna edition.

She revved up the engine and, with a big smile thrown the way of photographers, circled the parking area of the Land Transportation Office where she taught a motorcycle-riding course for traffic enforcers.

By the end of the photo opportunity, Tioseco was in her element, greeting and shaking hands with officials who had come to grace the graduation of 41 LTO enforcers from the riding course last Friday.

Every now and then, the country's first female Ducati super bike racer let out an easygoing laugh as she mingled with the others, the picture of a confident, modern woman secure in her place in the world.

And yet, just a few weeks ago, Tioseco could only drop her jaws in amazement when someone asked: "Are you butch (lesbian)?"

"I was shocked ... It seems people have this perception that (a woman who races bikes) must be a lesbian. They make easy assumptions. They speculate. No, I'm not a lesbian. I'm very straight," she said. Not that her sexual preference matters much these days, since, as Tioseco herself said: "I'm practically married to my bike."

But the question about her sexuality, which was asked by some of the LTO enforcers she was training, reminded Tioseco yet again that despite half a decade spent in the professional race circuit, she was still—and may always be—an outsider.

"There are times when I feel alone because I'm the only woman in the group. The only females I get to talk to are the mothers of the racers," she told the INQUIRER.

Tioseco, who was personally recruited by LTO chief Reynaldo Berroya as a trainor, said it was a shame that young Filipino women were not taking up the sport, even though she admitted that professional bike racing was not "much of a career."

"I don't race because of the prestige, or because I'm out to prove something. I do it out of love for racing, and also ... to gain friends, learn something new, explore new places," she added.

She said her interest in racing bikes began when she was just a little girl.

One day, while trying to perform a difficult bicycle stunt, Tioseco injured her elbow which left her with several stitches and a month-long stay in the hospital.

"I was just in grade school then! But the thing is, I was not traumatized. I never felt scared of riding again despite my injuries," she said.

"But I did begin to get tired of pedaling ... So I moved on to scooters," said Tioseco, whose family hails from Pampanga, La Union and Pangasinan but who was raised in Makati City.

Now in her twenties, Tioseco said she started competing professionally in 2001, mostly at the Batangas race track. She has won in several super bike races and in 2003, she represented the Philippines at an Asian meet in Indonesia.

Because of her years in the circuit, Tioseco said she has become "one of the boys."

"(My colleagues) treat me as their equal. No mercy. They forget I'm a girl and see me as a guy. But there's still respect (for me as a woman)."

She said she could see herself doing the same thing many years from now. "Hopefully, I can still ride my bike and race even when I reach menopausal age," she said.

NSJBI-Pres. Rey L. Vergara, First Vice President (NSIBI) - International Sales and Marketing - Ma. Cristia Bonifacio-Lin with Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and NAIA Gen. Manager Alfonso G. Cusi, awarding the winners.

New San Jose Builders, Inc. supports Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's Pamaskong Handog sa mga OFW

"PISTANG PASKO SA PAMILYANG OFW" — the theme of President Macapagal Arroyo's "Pamaskong Handog sa mga OFW" for the holiday season of 2006, held at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA) last December 18, 2006. Returning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW) as well as visiting kababayans from around the globe were welcomed with this special project by Manila International Airport Authority in cooperation with New San Jose Builders, Inc., the premier builder and developer in the country today whose projects include Victoria Towers, Victoria De Manila (VDM) and Victoria Station.

Through NSJBI's support and generosity, kabuhayan showcases were given away during the event wherein two lucky winners were pre-drawn by Pres. Arroyo together with NJBI-President, Mr. Rey L. Vergara and First Vice President (NSJBI) - International Sales and Marketing - Ms. Cristia Bonifacio-Lin. Also in attendance were Department of Tourism Secretary Ace Durano and Congressman Ace Barbers to grace the significant awarding.

A brand new Mitsubishi Adventure and a house and lot await the lucky winners during the grand draw on the first week of February, 2007. This is New San Jose Builders, Inc.'s way of thanking our Filipino kababayans abroad for their continued patronage with all of its projects.

NSJBI, is currently building its newest offering to our OFWs — the Victoria Towers. It will rise in a 4,529 sq. m. prime property at the corner of Timog and Panay Avenues in Quezon City. When completed, it will showcase 1,130 residential and 24 penthouse units. Owners can choose between single or combined loft type units, where each unit offers 3 bedrooms and a spacious foyer. Amenities include an infinity pool, a multi-purpose function room catering to as much as 200 guests, a business center, a gym, a spa, a day care, and a children's playground.

REY L. VERGARA, President, NSJBI

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First Vice President (NSIBI) - International Sales and Marketing - MA. CRISTIA BONIFACIO-LIN

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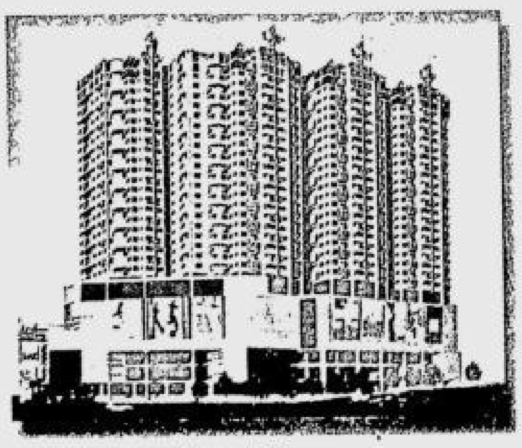
Victoria Station, another new project of NSJBI with direct access to GMA MRT Station is a 19-storey condominium containing with 556 residential units, a grand commercial plaza, swimming pool, business centers, and commercial offices.



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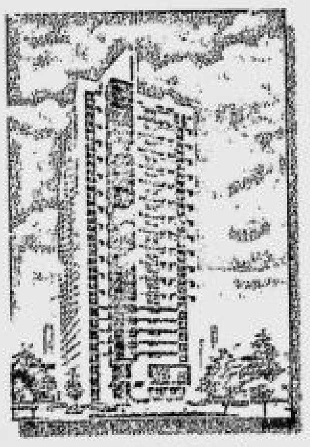

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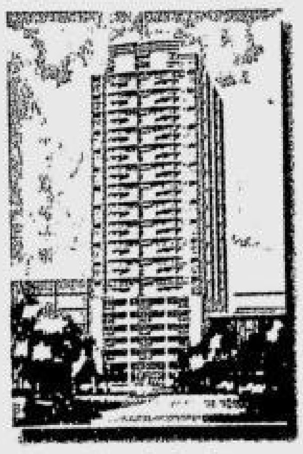

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GLOBAL Pinoy

Editor Gerry Lirio

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to sec
e their stories.

For art's sake, she gave up a high-paying nursing job

MARIETTA: "You should see me when I'm at work."

PHOTOS BY EUFEMIA C. ESTRADA

By Eufemia C. Estrada
Contributor

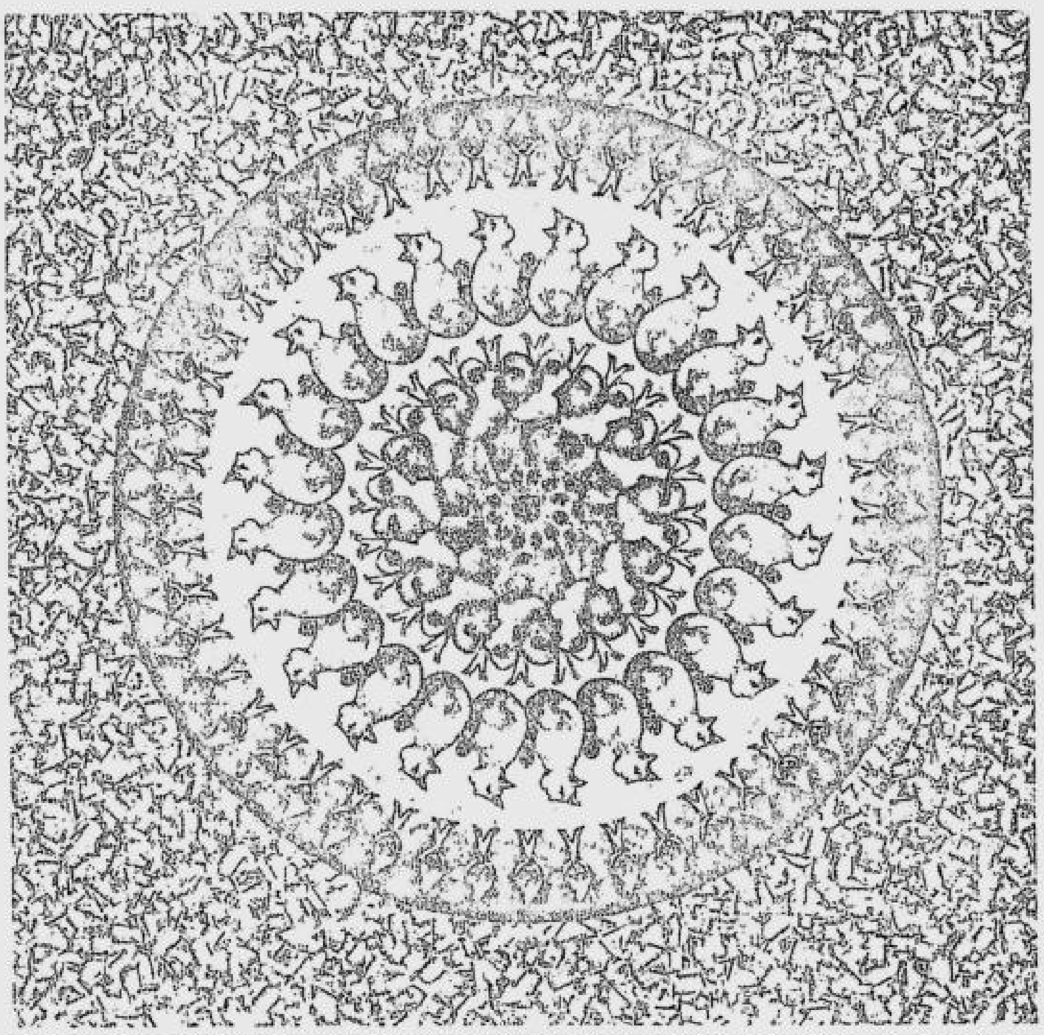
WHEN MARIETTA Ganapin left for a nursing job in New York's Lincoln Hospital in 1980, two years after she got her nursing degree from the University of the Philippines, she had no plans of living abroad. All she wanted was to earn enough to see the world which her parents, Delfin I and Alice, could not afford on their government wages with seven children to feed, clothe, and educate.

So for more than a decade, she was an intensive care unit nurse in hemodialisis care. During the first two years she set aside her dreams of being an artist.

As a child, Marietta had worked on mosaics. The whole Ganapin family is artistically inclined and even before they had a TV and other luxuries, Delfin I and Alice had invested in encyclopedias, one of them on art.

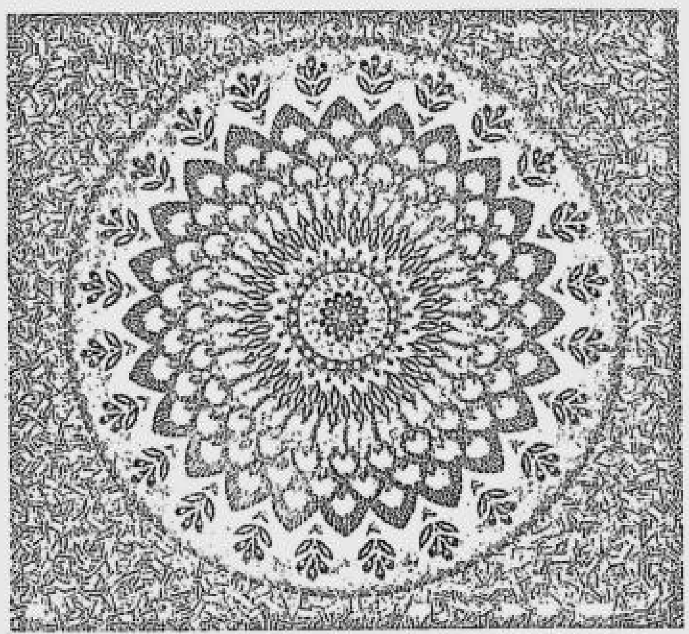
Paintings by the masters

In New York, Marietta spent her spare time exploring the city, visiting museums and art galleries, meeting fellow artists and dabbling in different visual arts. She decided to work part time so she could have more time for her art. Later she gave up her high-paying job but kept her nursing license up to date.



BASED on Chagall's "Paris Through the Window," this artwork comes from a collage of brochures of art reproductions Marietta has gathered from her endless visits to museums and galleries.

She is the only one in the family who has gone full time into art. Delfin Jr. is the first Filipino to hold the position of global manager for small grants under the United Nations Development Program. Samuel is a geologist who works in an oil rig abroad. Gina is a science supervisor in Miriam College's grade school. Melinda is also a nurse working in Minnesota. The late Alfredo was a veterinary doctor in Saudi Arabia. Alice is a medical doctor based here. But they, with mother Alice, support Marietta in her decision to pursue her art.



ANOTHER untitled work which, like most of her other pieces, is a schematized representation of the cosmos, chiefly characterized by a concentric configuration of geometric shapes, each of which contains an image or attributes of a deity.

Mandala collages

Her going into mandala collages came by accident. About 10 years ago Marietta met this Tibetan ex-monk who introduced her to the mandala, the ancient pattern in religious art and ritual of a circle in a square. She had found the framework for her chosen medium.

Marietta works on her mandala collages on a small kitchen table, starting with a square 9 1/2 by 9 1/2 inches. For her collages she uses the brochures of art reproductions she has gathered in her endless visits to museums and galleries. Her tools: A $2 single hole puncher, a compass, small scissors, a tube of glue, a small hammer, and her latest acquisition—a puncher for belts with graduated sized holes, the smallest a pinhead. This latest acquisition means her work will now be more intricate.

Each piece is based on a painting by a well-known artist such as Gauguin's "Table with Three Puppies," Chagall's "Paris Through the Window," Picasso's "Woman With Yellow Hair," or Matisse's "The Moroccan."

From "Paris Through the Window" (see photograph above), for example, Marietta has painstakingly cut countless eyes, faces, cats, buildings and the like which she uses in her work. "You should see me when I'm at work. They're even in my hair," Marietta says of the cuttings and punched circles.

At her first exhibit, in year 2002 at the Queens Museum of Art, 40 artists, all residents of Queens County participated. Her work caught the eye of Peter Norton of anticomputer virus fame, now a philanthropist, collector and one of the sponsors of the show. He wanted to buy all 14 of Marietta's works on exhibit but the artist was very reluctant about selling them.

It's not the money for this ex-ICU nurse but the art of living and living her art

"It was a difficult sale," she says. "It's too personal. It's me." She finally agreed to sell him 12 of her works. It was like parting with part of herself, she says. Her consolation is that he will take good care of her works. They are in good hands.

New York Times review

The New York Times art critics and reviewers are all praises for her works: "(Her) collages are in the form of mandala-like abstracted intricately patterned flowers ... They form brilliantly patterned mandalic circles ... They are densely patterned mandalas ... Her collages are beautiful and marvelously made."

She had also been described as among the A list artists and an art recycler.

Marietta, who was here late November last year to nurse her father in his last days, is holding her first solo exhibit in March at the McKenzie Fine Art Gallery in Chelsea. She will showcase 15 of her 11 by 11 inch works. She doesn't see herself going beyond a square of 13 by 13 inches.

Marietta paints a thin layer of acrylic over her finished collage and spray varnishes them.

Like all artists, Marietta says she is "struggling to make it. There's no way I can get rich as an artist." She believes it is a combination of luck, marketing and the strength of one's art. She tells her high school classmate from the Manila Science High School, with whom she shares her artwork, not to put her on a pedestal.

Although she has since become an American citizen, she remains a Filipino at heart. She has retained the values taught by her parents, "*hindi maluho*" (she has not bought a house or car, for example), and invests in memories. She was the first in the family to bring home a video camera to record happy memories with family. She keeps close family ties spending holidays and house sitting for brother Delfin who is now based in New Jersey. She comes home to the Philippines regularly for visits and spends most of the time at home.

For unlike most OFWs who are "out there" for the money, what matters most to Marietta is her art and sharing it with others. She has no money sense—she doesn't know how much her work is worth and accepts invitations for talks to different groups without knowing how much to charge for her time and expertise.

What is important to Marietta is her art. She gave up a high-paying job as an ICU nurse to devote her time to it. And we are the richer for it.

'You can't go home again'

By Isabel Escoda
Contributor

HONG KONG—SOMEHOW, when my new acquaintance Jennilyn said to me, "*Ayoko nang umuwi sa 'Pinas* (I don't ever want to go home to the Philippines)," it brought to mind the title of the Thomas Wolfe book "You Can't Go Home Again."

Not that her statement had any connection with that late American writer's novel—in fact his title implied an inability, not an unwillingness, to return home. In Jennilyn's case; it sounded more like she was rejecting her country.

I happened to meet this young domestic worker during a ferry ride to one of Hong Kong's outlying islands where I live. As we got acquainted, she told me her life story—all in the 50 minutes it takes to get from Hong Kong's Central district to Mui Wo town on Lantau Island.

Considering the path her life had followed thus far—from a barrio in Antique to relatives in Negros, and then domestic employment in Hong Kong—it was easy to see why she didn't want to go back to the poverty she had encountered at every turn.

Like a hackneyed Tagalog film script, hers was a familiar story about a hard-scrabble farming life with her impoverished father and constantly pregnant mother, her struggle through school, soon interrupted when she became pregnant in her teens by a jobless drifter who disappeared right after their child was born.

Smell of despair

Like so many other young Filipino women from deprived backgrounds, she took the usual route of working at deadend jobs in the nearest town, then working for a relative in another province, and finally borrowing money from the relative so as to cross the South China Sea to earn a living in Hong Kong.

Besides recalling Thomas Wolfe's title while hearing all this, I also thought of INQUIRER columnist Patricia Evangelista's piece about the Supreme Court's rejection of unpopular moves to change the system of government. In it she wrote: "In a country where the smell of despair is so ripe that the air stinks of it, it's easy to toss out a lifeline to those so desperate to believe in something, anything—like the golden promise of Charter change ..." The despair she described was of course more about the obvious hopelessness most Filipinos feel over the country's endemic political morass than about the demoralization of the great mass of citizens facing bleak futures.

Indeed, the despair felt by many women like Jennilyn who flee our shores to seek their fortunes abroad does sometimes turn into a determination never to return home. But one wonders how many other Pinoy migrants similarly reject their homeland once they find a niche abroad. Somehow I doubt if this attitude denotes a total rejection of one's motherland—mainly because most always carry their country in their hearts. The despair has, of course, more to do with economic necessity than anything else.

For women like Jennilyn, her sad ordeal has also provided an opportunity to strike out on her own to explore new horizons. She confided in me about her plan to stay on in this Chinese enclave, perhaps finding a better job eventually.

Moonlighting

Another option would be to go to Canada (long the preferred choice of most migrant workers in the territory) or maybe even to Europe. She added unblushingly that if she was lucky, she'd find a kind husband to help end her financial woes. This is mainly because her main concern at present is having to pay back the money she owes her relative in Negros who has recently been sending querulous letters about repayment. So she plans to slave on till she saves money to settle that debt and raise more funds to pay an overseas recruiter.

And now that Japan has allowed a trickle of foreign caregivers into that country, Jennilyn is, like some other Pinays in Hong Kong, considering taking a local caregiving course in the hope that the Japanese will open their doors wider.

Aware of the mindset of many such migrant workers, the three monthly Filipino newspapers in Hong Kong carry advertisements for jobs abroad, not just in Canada and other Western countries, but also in Middle Eastern countries like Dubai, Qatar and Bahrain. Though male workers are usually preferred in those latter places, there's always a demand for domestics—jobs which Pinays accept at their peril since, even though those more "progressive" Arab states may not be as repressive as the Muslim countries, the fact is that their long entrenched macho cultures consider women as easy prey for all manner of abuse.

So all this time Jennilyn has been saving part of her wages which she doesn't remit for her family's support, while moonlighting on her days off by offering manicures and neck and shoulder massages to her compatriots at the Central alleyways. And she accepts sewing alteration work for which she advertises at supermarket bulletin boards, being fortunate that her employer lets her use her sewing machine after working hours.

Like countless other Pinays who see no future in their own country, Jennilyn may change her mind about rejecting home once she's improved her situation. I believe she will always harbor, in her heart of hearts, that nostalgia to return to one's roots.

Look homeward

I also think those others who, like Jennilyn, turn their backs forever on the land of their birth, and who might integrate well into their host country, are not a large majority. No matter how well the migrant workers do overseas (or how badly, making them continue enduring miserable conditions so as not to lose face if they go home), they will always retain that desire to be back home. Surely they will hark back to the homeland's call which echoes the title of Thomas Wolfe's other book "Look Homeward, Angel."

Action sought after warming report

PARIS—A HARD-HITTING REPORT FRIDAY BY A UN panel of experts on global warming drew calls for concerted global action, with UN chief Ban Ki-moon urging a much more rapid and determined response.

In the United States, the world's biggest polluter, Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said the report confirmed what President George W. Bush had said about "the nature of climate change, and it reaffirms the need for continued US leadership in addressing global climate issues."

Ban said the report "highlights the scientific consensus regarding the quickening and threatening pace of human-induced climate change."

"The global response therefore needs to move much more rapidly as well, and with more determination," the UN secretary general said in a statement.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—the UN's top scientific authority on global warming—delivered its starkest warning yet at a conference in Paris.

The UN body's report, its first for six years, said fossil fuel pollution would raise temperatures this century, worsen floods, droughts and hurricanes, melt polar ice and damage the climate system for a thousand years to come.

South African Environment Minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk urged Bush to hear the "growing groundswell of opinion in that country (United States)" and to join the global effort to curb global warming.

Bodman said the US government under Bush "is taking action to curb the growth of greenhouse gas emissions and encouraging the development and deployment of clean energy technologies here in the United States and across the globe."

The Australian government, one of only two developed countries to refuse to sign the Kyoto Protocol, along with the US, said Saturday the latest report was "nothing new" and defended its policies.

Environment Minister Malcolm Turnbull said they had long accepted that the country must prepare for hotter and drier conditions in the future.

"The science in this report is important but it is not new," he said

"The Australian government's response to climate change has been fast and decisive ... The past 10 years has seen us reduce the growth in our greenhouse gas emissions to meet our international target and continually push for an effective global climate change agreement.

"But this is a global challenge and for the world to cut emissions, we need all the major emitting countries to join in global action."

Britain's Foreign Secretary Margaret Beckett noted that "failure to grow our economies will threaten peace and prosperity, but if we grow our economies at the expense of the climate the same peace and prosperity will be threatened."

French President Jacques Chirac called for a "revolution" in how the world sees the environment.

"Soon will come a day when climate change escapes all control. We are on the verge of the irreversible," he said.

The report also drew a call from the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change for Ban to convene a summit on global warming.

European Environment Commissioner Stavros Dimas agreed on the need for international action.

"It is now more urgent than ever that the international community gets down to serious negotiations on a comprehensive new worldwide agreement to stop global warming," Dimas said.

The next scheduled UN climate change conference, due to be held in the Indonesian resort of Bali, is 10 months away.

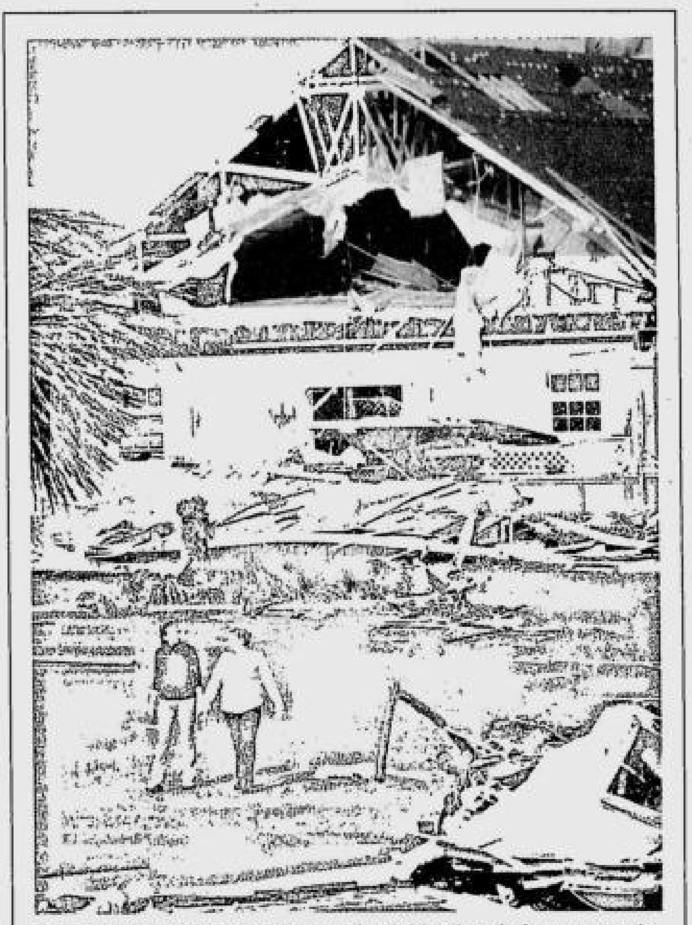
Before that is a European Union summit next month, and environmental groups WWF International and Friends of the Earth urged the bloc to take a leading role in international efforts to control greenhouse gas emissions.

Jan Kowalzig, climate and energy campaigner for Friends of the Earth, said EU leaders must order a 30 percent emissions reduction target "which would be just enough to avert the worst of climate change."

WWF said governments must now "slash emissions," and Greenpeace warned the "window for action is narrowing fast."

Denmark's Environment Minister Connie Hedegaard stressed the need for agreements with countries outside Europe.

The EU and Denmark "can do something, but for that to have an effect, we have to sign binding agreements with the big economies of the world, for example China and above all the United States," Hedegaard said. *AFP*



PEOPLE walk through a damaged neighborhood after a tornado that hit early in the morning in The Villages, Fla., Friday Feb. 2. AP

Severe storms strike Florida, killing at least 19

PAISLEY, FLA.—AT LEAST 19 people died when vicious thunderstorms and tornadoes devastated parts of central Florida before dawn Friday, flattening hundreds of homes and leaving thousands of residents who had little or no warning of the storms in grim shock.

Rescue workers combed what remained of toppled houses for survivors, and Gov. Charlie Crist, who declared a state of emergency in Lake, Volusia, Sumter and Seminole counties, said federal aid would arrive soon.

"It looked like a bomb went off on some of these homes and it breaks your heart to see that," Crist said after arriving by helicopter at Lake Mack, near Paisley in rural Lake County, where most of the dead were found.

The worst of the storms touched down north of Orlando between 3 and 4 a.m., jolting people from sleep with a noise some compared to a jumbo jet. Though a tornado watch had been posted for many Florida counties late Thursday, the National Weather Service issued warnings just minutes before the twisters hit in the middle of the night, when hardly anyone was watching or listening for them.

At a trailer park in Lady Lake, about 30 miles west of Paisley, Marie Magana said her daughter, Brittany May, 17, died when an oak tree crashed into her room at the height of the storm. As evening fell, Magana was picking Brittany's porcelain dolls and award ribbons for horseback riding out of the rubble where her bedroom had been. *NYT*

Bush changes global warming talk, but not action

WASHINGTON—WITH THE SCIentific evidence on global warming increasingly undeniable, US President George W. Bush has publicly embraced the issue of climate change.

But on policy, his administration remains reticent to take any of the costly actions to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that scientists say are the root cause of warming, analysts say.

Friday, the Bush administration saluted the conclusions of the newest comprehensive report on global warming, in which UN scientists delivered their starkest warning yet that fossil fuel pollution would raise temperatures this century, worsen floods, droughts and hurricanes, melt polar sea ice and damage the climate system for a thousand years to come.

In its first assessment in six years, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) dealt a crippling blow to the shrinking body of opinion that claims higher temperatures in past decades have been driven by natural, not man-made, causes.

BUSH AFP

"The report will contribute to the body of knowledge that we have to study and understand the best way to meet the challenges of climate changes," deputy White House spokesperson Tony Fratto said.

On Feb. 23 in his annual State of the Union address Bush acknowledged for the first time the problem of global warming, and implicitly recognized the human responsibility.

Bush said that the United States needed to reduce its dependence on imported sources of energy, and pointed to ways to do so with new advances in technology. In saying so, Bush noted that new technologies for doing so could also help with the environment.

"America is on the verge of technological breakthroughs that will enable us to live our lives less dependent on oil. And these technologies will help us be better stewards of the environment, and they will help us to confront the serious challenge of global climate change," he said.

But Bush gave no hint of forcing a reduction of greenhouse gases and other damaging emissions through tough government regulations or by adhering to the Kyoto Accord.

"I think fundamentally it's simply a change of emphasis, not a change in substance," said Bryan Mignone, a specialist in climate issues at the Brookings Institute think tank.

"Before there was still some uncertainty in the science. Now, in order to claim that an action is not necessary, all the burden falls on the economic cost argument," Mignone said of the Bush administration approach.

"If you are not going to dispute science but you are still much more against regulations ... it's really about questioning the economic cost to mitigate climate change," he said of the evolved policy.

Richard Newell, a senior fellow at Resources for the Future and a former energy economist in the Bush White House, said there has been a sharp change since a key Bush speech in 2001 that steadfastly refused to give ground to global warming arguments. *AFP*

Serbia turns down UN plan for Kosovo

PRISTINA, KOSOVO—SERBIA rejected a UN proposal on Friday that paves the way for an independent Kosovo, setting up a possible showdown between its supporter, Russia, and the West over the disputed territory's final status.

Serbia's response came almost immediately after a UN envoy, Martti Ahtisaari, presented the complex plan to politicians here and in Belgrade.

"I told Mr. Ahtisaari that Serbia and I, as its president, will never accept Kosovo's independence," President Boris Tadic said in a statement from Belgrade. He noted that while the plan does not mention statehood for Kosovo, it "opens the possibility for Kosovo's independence."

The proposal, still subject to weeks of negotiation between the two sides, will require Russian acquiescence in order to win Security Council approval. Russia, a permanent member of the council with veto power over the plan, has until now backed Serbia's position that Kosovo must remain an integral, albeit autonomous, part of Serbia.

A Nato bombing campaign stopped fighting between Serb and Kosovo Albanian forces in 1999 and put the disputed territory under UN administration. It has been in limbo since then.

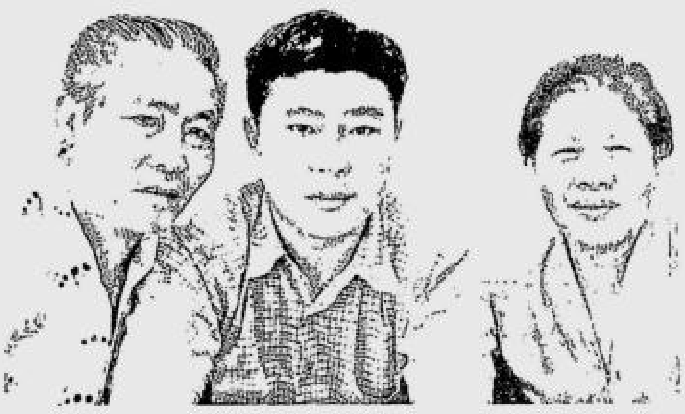
Ahtisaari's proposal is intended to fix finally the province's future, closing the last chapter of the 1990s Balkan wars. While the plan does not mention independence, its provisions describe de facto statehood for Kosovo—providing for an army, constitution and flag—although it would still be protected by Nato and overseen by the international community for the indefinite future. The plan would allow Kosovo to declare independence if the package is approved by the Security Council.

Ahtisaari avoided addressing the subject of independence on Friday at news conferences in Belgrade and Pristina, saying only that "there will be a clear definition of Kosovo's status when I submit my proposals to the Security Council."

In Belgrade, the mood was glum. Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica, who refused to meet with Ahtisaari, called the proposal "illegitimate," saying that it violated the UN Charter because it would "divide Serbia's territory and redraw its internationally recognized borders."

The proposal was met with only muted optimism in Pristina. "Kosovo will be sovereign like all other countries," said Kosovo's president, Fatmir Sejdiu, after his meeting with Ahtisaari. The territory's prime minister, Agim Ceku, said the document "is very clear for Kosovo's future."

New York Times News Service



ZULHAIDI Omar (center), flanked by his natural parents, father Teo Ma Leong (left) and mother Lim Sai Hak, Feb. 2. REUTERS

Malaysian switched at birth wants to switch religion

KUALA LUMPUR—A MALAYSIAN Muslim man switched at birth in a hospital mix-up wants to change his name after being reunited with his ethnic-Chinese biological family and become a Buddhist.

In multiracial Malaysia, ethnic Malays, who are mostly Muslim, form a majority of the population of roughly 26 million, while ethnic Chinese and ethnic Indians account for about 25 percent and 8 percent respectively.

Sales executive Zulhaidi Omar, 29, was raised in an ethnic Malay family, and discovered his true origins only after a Chinese woman at a supermarket where he worked noticed his features were similar to those of her father, newspapers said.

"The girl who was always looking at me was actually my elder sister who suspected that I was her brother because of my striking resemblance to our father," the Star newspaper quoted Zulhaidi as telling reporters.

Three visits by the girl and her parents convinced him to take a DNA test that confirmed the ties, he added.

Zulhaidi, who unwittingly spent 20 years just a few miles from his real family, now lives with them in Batu Pahat in southern Johor state. But it took him six months before he began to call his parents "Mom" and "Dad." His natural father, Teo Ma Leong, 66, said he had always suspected the fifth of his six children was switched at birth, because the boy had a dark complexion, the Star said.

"A check with the hospital gave us no clues, so we brought him up as one of our own, although we knew our actual son was out there somewhere," Teo added.

As a child, Zulhaidi said, he was teased about his Chinese-like features and never felt accepted by the family in which he was brought up, so he left them when he was 13. *Reuters*

Blair refuses to quit over 'cash-for-honors'

LONDON—BRITISH PRIME Minister Tony Blair refused Friday to resign over a "cash-for-honors" police probe despite growing pressure and fears within his Labor Party about its political fallout.

BLAIR AFP

Blair, who has pledged to stand down between July and September, told the BBC he intended to pursue his policy reform agenda until handing over to his successor in the party.

However, opposition leaders have called for him to quit now and top Labor figures are openly worrying about the 10-month investigation's "corrosive" impact now Blair has been questioned by police for a second time as a witness.

The inquiry launched in March 2005 is to establish if Labor and other parties illegally offered seats in parliament's unelected upper chamber, the House of Lords, in return for financial assistance.

Blair said he understood how the probe was "distracting and somewhat obsessive for the media" but added: "It isn't for me." When pressed by the BBC about whether he should stand down to end the political damage, Blair replied: "I don't think that's the right way to do it.

"I think it would be particularly wrong to do it before the inquiry has even run its course and come to any conclusion. You'll have to put up with me for a little bit longer," the prime minister said.

David Cameron, leader of the main opposition Conservative Party, on Thursday repeated his claim that Blair's authority was draining away, adding the fact he was questioned a second time "only confirmed" he should go "and go soon." On Thursday it was confirmed that Blair, who in December 2006 became the first serving British premier to be questioned by police, had been interviewed again last Friday—again as a witness rather than as a suspect.

The interview was kept secret for six days after police asked for a news blackout "for operational reasons." Sir Menzies Campbell, the leader of the second opposition party, the Liberal Democrats, said: "He should go sooner rather than later. Until he does the British people themselves have no chance to move on." Hazel Blears, the Labor party chair and tipped as a contender to become the party's next deputy leader, said the inquiry was damaging the government's ability to communicate with voters.

"Inevitably, when you have this kind of thing going on for months and months, it does have a corrosive effect," Blears told BBC television late Thursday. *AFP*

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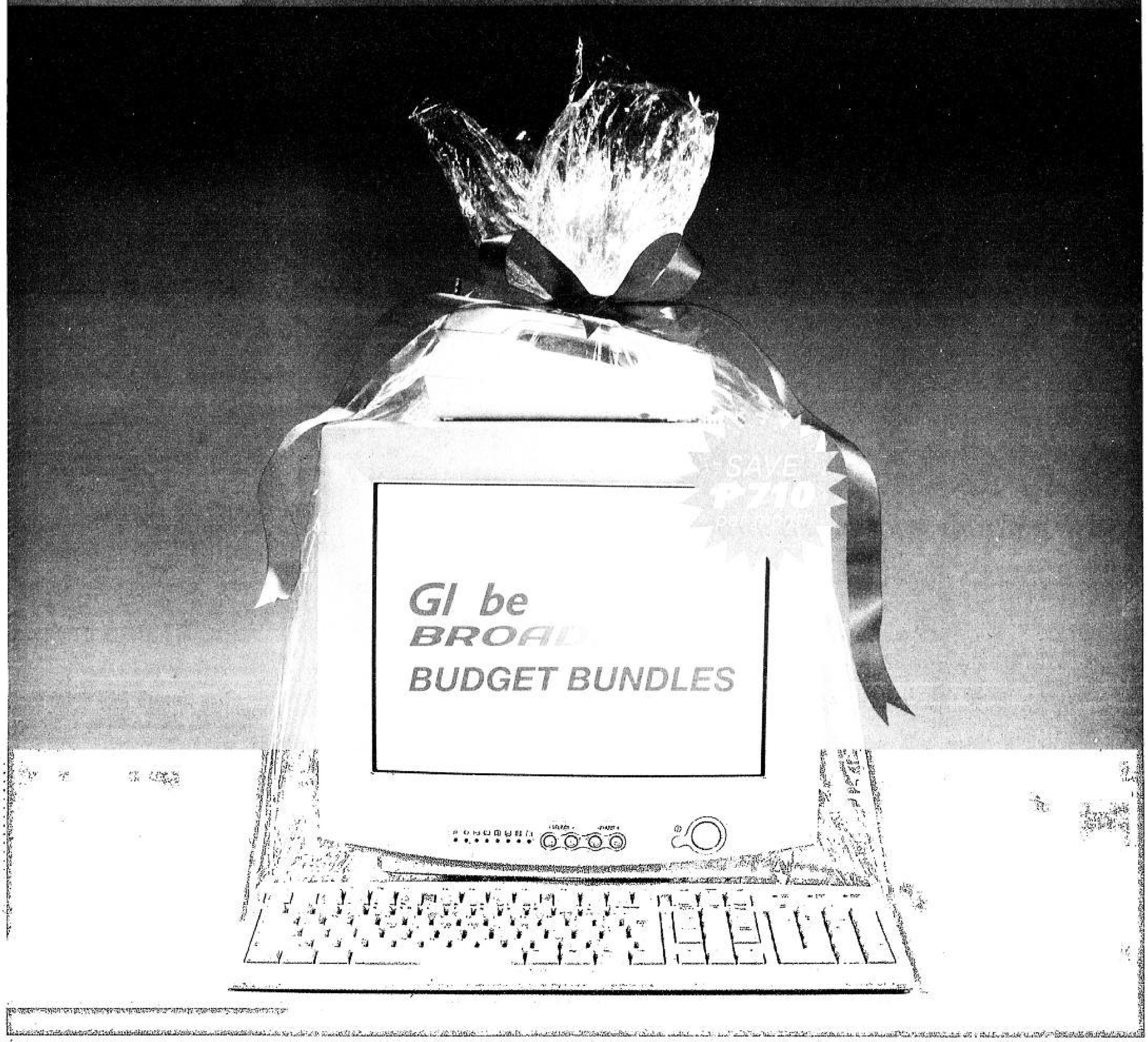

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Campomanes survives car accident /A27

Sunday SPORTS

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Celtics suffer record slump /A28

FRANKIE Miñoza takes centerstage as he fires a 67 to put himself alone on top going into today's final round.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Miñoza grabs 1-shot lead

RP ace survives brutal conditions with 2nd straight 67

By Musong R. Castillo

THREE YEARS AFTER SHYING AWAY FROM HIS NAtional championship, Frankie Miñoza is ready to win it again—and slay the ghost of his Philippine Open misadventures at Wack Wack.

The 47-year-old Filipino star flourished in brutal conditions at Wack Wack's famous East course yesterday, calmly rolling in a testy five-footer for par to cap a day-best five-under 67 and wrest a one-stroke lead heading into the final day of the 91st staging of Asia's oldest championship.

Hitting it big off the tees and playing short iron approach shots with laser-like accuracy, Miñza made the turn at 31 to grab the lead from three strokes down and set himself up for his second win in the event since the 1998 edition at Riviera.

His second straight 67 gave Miñoza a 9-under 207 total and boosted him past halfway leader Liang Wenchong of China, the 30-year-old from Zhongshan province who slipped to solo second at 208 after a 71.

"We have a good chance," Miñoza, a regular on the Asian and Japanese Tour, told reporters in Filipino. "I have a lot of confidence in my swing now."

It looks like a two-horse race in the last 18 holes between the Filipino No. 1 and his counterpart from China, who had become friends while playing in the Japanese Tour.

Third-running Prayad Marksaeng of Thailand stood five strokes off the lead at 212 after a 69 with unheralded Gurbaaz Mann of India holding fourth at 213 after a 68.

Aussie Neven Basic, who also shot a 67 on Friday and started the day in second place just a shot behind, ballooned to a 76 and was fifth with a 214 aggregate.

Should he go on to win, it will undoubtedly erase the stigma of many failures in the past at Wack Wack's East for Miñoza, who actually held a three-stroke lead over Liang until he bogeyed the 168-yard par-3 No. 17 after hitting a 7-iron fat and finding the right front bunker.

It was the third and last bogey for the round for Miñoza, who knocked down eight birds for the second straight day, this time shaving a stroke on five of his first seven holes on the front nine.

Miñoza, who was hitting mostly pitching wedge shots to the greens, misread a 25-foot putt for birdie on the 18th, but nailed the five-foot comebacker to secure the day's best round.

Great factor

"The wind will be a great factor (in the final round)," Miñoza said. "This course takes a different shape when the winds blow. Like today when there were many players who struggled."

Only seven sub-par rounds were turned in and only nine players managed to score level 72s as the winds howled in all directions of the heavily wooded course and bowled over most of those who were in the upper half of the leaderboard at the start of the day.

Benjie Magada, the reed-thin, cigarette-puffing local veteran who turned in a 68 on Friday for solo third place, stumbled with a 78, his fling with Open greatness gone just as quick as it started as he dropped to joint 14th at one-over 217.

Angelo Que finally churned out his first sub-par round of 68 to forge a tie at 215 with Gerald Rosales, who fired a 72.

David Bransdon of Australia and American Jason Knutzon, who shared the opening round lead with five others after a fine 68 on Thursday, shot 73 and 75, respectively, keep Que and Rosales company.

Tonlits Asistio, meanwhile, took over the low amateur race from Canlubang standout and national amateur champion Jay Bayron, with his third round 74 putting him in the group of Magada. Bayron shot a 78 for 220.

LIANG

"It's going to be interesting," Liang told reporters in broken English later. "He (Miñoza) is a very good player, (one of the) best (in) hitting the ball (off the tees) and in the short game.

"I will try my best," added Liang. "I would not like to think of what to score (for the final round). I will just go out there and try my best."

Miñoza and Liang became friends as they shared practice rounds together in Japan with the Filipino, as Liang admitted, even giving him tips on how to play in the Japanese Tour.

Liang, who played in front of Minoza, missed forging a tie for the lead when his 20-foot sidehill putt for birdie stopped no more than two inches to the right of the 18th cup.

Still it was a good finish for the Chinese, who double bogeyed the 220-yard par-3 No. 7 and trailed Miñoza by three at that point.

After flailing his tee shot to the right and into thick rough, Liang needed two chips to find the green from a bad lie then two-putted for a 5.

Former winner Rick Gibson, after two sub-par rounds, submitted a 75 and dropped into a 10th place tie along with Richard Moir of Australia (70), Japan's Taichiro Kiyota (72), and India's Digvijay Singh (75) at level 216.

Carito Villaroman, the former junior world champion who fired an opening round 68 to share the lead, dropped farther back after a 76 for 219, good for a 28th place tie with nine others, including Filipino Tony Lascuna (72) and pro-am champ Adam Blyth of Australia (78).

PAIRINGS: Fourth round

6:30 a.m.—Hsieh CS, A. Fernando (A)
6:40—R. Jamnong, Z. Moe
6:50—D. Zarate, R. Pagunsan, K. Tannin
7:00—Yeh CT, W. Artjanawat, Hwang JM
7:10—Lu WT, A. Hall, M. Pucay
7:20—A. Savolainen, Lin WH, E. Salvador
7:30—A. Singh, E. Sanchez, B. Iles
7:40—A. Balan, C. Lao, G. Van Der Valk
7:50—S. Dunn, Nam YW, P. Muenlek
8:05—A. Le Vesconte, Chang TP, U. S. Mundy
8:15—S. Srisa-Nga, O. Nordberg, Lin CH
8:25—M. Brown, S. Scahill, H. Lee
8:35—J. Bayron (A), Wang TC, Kim HD
8:45—A. R. Zahari, S. K. Naing, Kao BS
8:55—S. Strange, S. Higaki, A. Blyth
9:05—R. Beste, C. Villaroman, Park JW
9:15—D. Gleeson, M. Dizon, R. Bain
9:25—M. Brown, G. Flint, T. Lascuña
9:40—J. Moseley, C. Devers, A. Kang
9:50—A. Murakami, Lin KC, C. Plaphol
10:00—C. Nirat, T. Carolan, B. Magada
10:10—Lu WC, Sung MC, A. Asistio II (A)
10:20—B. Saltus, M. Rominger, R. Gibson
10:30—D. Singh, T. Kiyota, R. Moir
10:40—J. Knutzon, D. Bransdon, G. Rosales
10:50—A. Que, N. Basic, G. Mann
11:00—P. Marksaeng, Liang WC, F. Miñoza

91st Philippine Open: Third round scores

207 - F. Miñoza 73-67-67
208 - L. Wenchong (China) 68-69-71
212 - P. Marksaeng (Tha) 69-74-69
213 - G. Mann (Ind) 70-75-68
214 - N. Basic (Aus) 71-67-76
215 - D. Bransdon (Aus) 69-73-73; G. Rosales 73-70-72; A. Que 75-72-68; J. Knutzon (US) 68-72-75
216 - R. Moir (Aus) 74-72-70; R. Gibson (Can) 71-70-75; D. Singh (Ind) 69-72-75; T. Kiyota (Jpn) 70-74-72
217 - Lu WC (Tpe) 71-71-75; A. Asistio II (a) 75-68-74; M. Rominger (Sui) 73-72-72; Sung MC (Tpe)71-72-74; B. Magada 71-68-78. B. Saltus (US) 71-73-73
218 - C. Devers (US) 71-70-77; A. Kang (US) 68-74-76; C. Nirat (Tha) 73-73-72; J. Moseley (Aus) 69-71-78; A. Murakami 71-72-75; C. Plaphol (Tha) 76-69-73; Lin KC (Tpe) 72-72-74; T. Carolan (Aus) 74-75-69
219 - C. Villaroman 68-75-76; R. Beste (Aus) 72-71-76; M. Brown (Aus) 76-70- 73; G. Flint (Aus) 72-74-73; T. Lascuna 78-69-72; D. Gleeson (Aus) 73-71-75; A. Blyth (Aus) 74-67-78; Park JW (Kor) 69-74-76; R. Bain (Sco) 73-72-74; M. Dizon 73-71-75
220 - Wang TC (Tpe) 68-75-77; S. K. Naing (Mya) 72-73-75; H. Lee (Kor) 70-72- 78; Kao BS (Kor) 71-74-75; S. Higaki 72-76-72; J. Bayron (a) 68-74-78; Kim HD (Kor) 73-70-77; S. Strange (Aus) 73-75-72; A. R. Zahari (Mas) 73-71-76
221 - U. S. Mundy (Ind) 75-70-76; M. Brown (Aus) 72-77-72; S. Scahill (Nzl) 76-73-72; S. Srisanga (Tha) 76-70-75; O. Nordberg (Swe) 70-76-75; Lin CH (Tpe) 74-73-74; Chang TP (Tpe) 72-72-77; A. Le Vesconte (Aus) 72-72-77; P. Muenlek (Tha) 72-72-77
222 - C. La'O 73-70-79; G. V. D. Valk (Nld) 71-75-76; S. Dunn (Sco) 76-73- 73; Nam YW (Kor) 76-73-73
223 - B. Iles (Aus) 73-76-74; E. Sanchez 73-75-75; A. Balan 73-76-74
224 - A. Hall (Aus) 73-74-77; A. Savolainen (Fin) 75-73-76; M. Pucay 72-75- 77; E. Salvador 72-77-75; Lu WT (Tpe) 72 74 78; Lin WH (Tpe) 74-74-76; A. Singh (Ind) 75-74-75
225 - Hwang JM (Kor) 75-73-77; Yeh CT (Tpe) 74-73-78; W. Artjanawat (Tha) 72-75-78; K. Tannin (Tha) 71-76-78
226 - D. Zarale 74-75-77; R. Pagunsan 78-71-77
229 - Z. Moe (Mya) 75-74-80
230 - R. Jamnong (Tha) 78-71-81; A. Fernando (a) 76-73-81
232 - Hsieh CS (Tpe) 75-74-83

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Hapee makes it 2-0; Harbour ties series

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2 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Toyota Otis
4 p.m.—Mail and More vs Harbour Centre

HAPEE'S Larry Rodriguez diputes possession against Mail and More's Nestor David.

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By Jasmine W. Payo

HAPEE-PCU BANKED ON A TESTED strategy in pulling off a commanding 2-0 lead in the PBL best-of-five semifinal series.

With Jason Castro coming up with his usual numbers, the Teeth Masters posted an 81-65 victory against Mail and More in the Silver Cup yesterday at The Arena in San Juan.

"The key was still our aggressive defense," said Hapee-PCU coach Jun Noel. "Castro has been leading the team to our goal."

The 5-foot-10 Castro tallied another all-around performance with 23 points on top of five rebounds, five assists, two steals and one block.

Meanwhile,Harbour Centre tied its semifinal series against Toyota Otis at 1-1 with an 80-74 win.

Chico Lanete helped avert another late-game Harbour meltdown to finish with a personal-best 31 points.

The Portmasters held on for what seemed like another possible collapse as Marvin Cruz lit up another Sparks rally.

"Our defense and end-game, we have to work on that," said coach Jorge Gallent after Harbour Centre recovered from an 84-77 collapse in the semifinal opener. "If Marvin plays well, Toyota plays well."

The Port Masters ran away in the second period for a 41-29 halftime advantage that grew to a 20-point buffer, 69-49, early in the fourth canto.

Mail and More again drew little help from star center JR Quiñahan, who has yet to display his offensive game in the post-elimination round.

Although Quiñahan had six blocks, the Comets have been sorely missing his offensive contributions in the last four games. He finished with five points yesterday.

The Comets' hot shooting simmered in the third period, allowing the Teeth Masters to put the lead back up to 13 points, 72-59, midway in the fourth after a slim 60-55 margin.

Poor free throw shooting also told on the Comets as they converted only 12 of 23 attempts from the stripe.

With Mike Bravo working at the perimeter, the Comets came to within a bucket, 49-47, early in the third canto.

Ardy Larong and Castro responded for the Teeth Masters,58-47, but another Comets spurt sparked by a Ronjay Buenafe triple closed the gap to 60-55.

The scores:

First Game

HAPEE-PCU 81—Castro 23, L. Rodriguez 13, Belga 11, Butel 8, Borboran 6, Larong 5, Hugnatan 4, Moreno 4, Sanz 4, J. Rodriguez 3, Bucao 0, Razon 0.

MAIL AND MORE 65—Bravo 20, Buenafe 12, Viray 9, Quinahan 5, Canizares 4, Espiritu 4, Te 3, David 3, Aquino 2, Del Rosario 2, Ballesteros 1, Pribhdas 0.

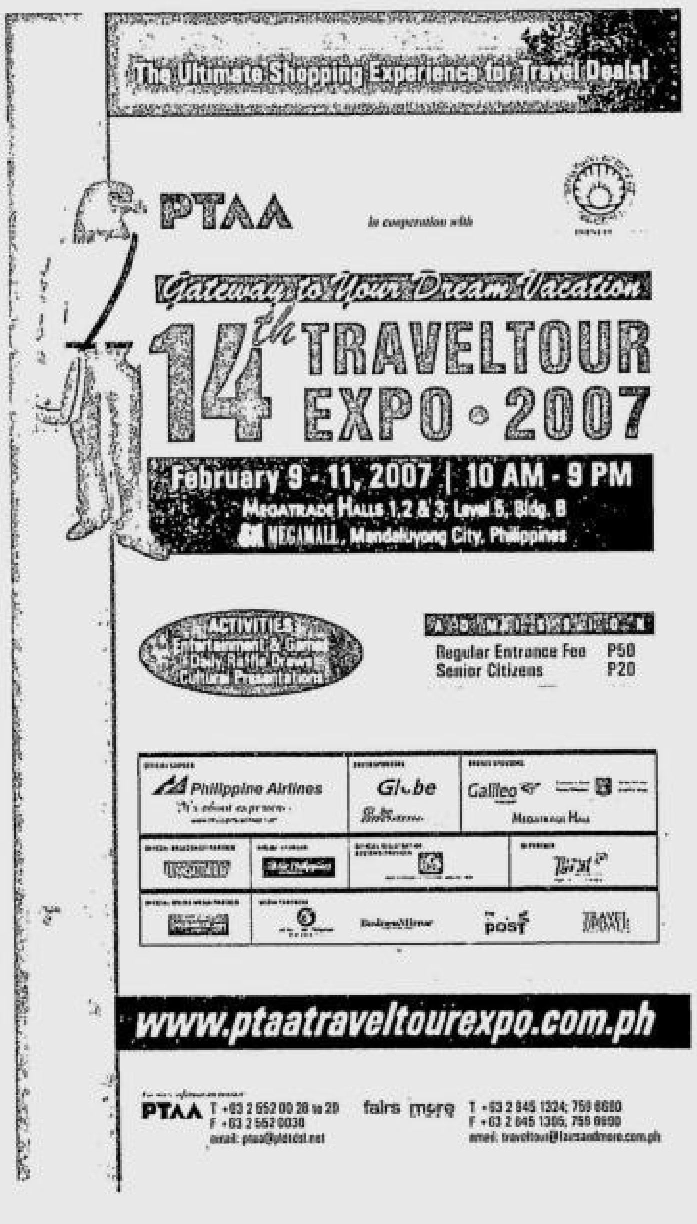
Quarters: 20-18, 42-35, 60-55, 81-65

Second Game

HARBOUR CENTRE 80—Lanete 31, Intal 10, Gaco 9, Gamboa 8, Arana 6, Origuerra 3, Fernandez 3, Vergara 3, Williams 3, Asoro 2, Capati 2, Coching 0, Alonzo 0.

TOYOTA OTIS 74—Rodriguez 18, Cruz 12, Cabahug 12, Santos 8, Daa 8, Coronel 5, Dedicatoria 5, Aldave 2, Fajardo 2, Jaime 1, Alcaraz 1, Quinday 0, Jazul 0, Guevarra 0.

Quarters 13-19 41-29 63-45 80-74



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Olympic swimming program to cost ₱10-15M

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE SWIMMING'S OLYMPIC training program carries a stiff price tag: P10 to P15 million.

The ballpark figure, issued by the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association, represents the overseas training expenses of at least eight swimmers and includes the cost of hiring a Brazilian coach.

The amount is almost the same as the early estimates made on the taekwondo and boxing preparations, which officials said would require no less than P15 million each to boost the country's bid for a first ever gold medal in Beijing next year.

There will be several "windows of opportunities" for the national swimmers to make the cut, according to Pasa president Mark Joseph.

First up is the World Championships in Melbourne in March where they will vie for "faster criteria times."

"When we field one or more swimmers in each event, we are required to make the criteria A which is faster than what they require if a country sends only one swimmer," said Joseph.

That's what Miguel Molina is facing as the multiple Southeast Asian Games gold medal winner will take his chances in the 400-meter individual medley, 200m IM and 100m backstroke.

Joseph reported that Molina, who is based in the United States, is expected to make it in more than one category. The same holds true for Fil-Americans Jackie Pangilinan, JB Walsh and youngsters Marichi Gandionco and Ryan Arabejo.

The 18-year-old Gandionco, a consistent national champion, missed the cut during the 2004 Athens Games but her performance, according to Joseph, is likely to qualify her to the Beijing Games.

Another 18-year-old, long distance specialist Arabejo, has been showing vast improvement based on his stints at the Bolles School in Florida where he is a scholar of the Olympic Solidarity Program.

Walsh, Pangilinan, Molina, Miguel Mendoza and Timmy Chua donned the national colors in 2004.

MOLINA

Bangkok sojourn

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

FOR A MOMENT THERE, I GOT confused about all those movements going to and from Bangkok, Thailand.

Was it the BAP that is meeting—or had met with Fiba officials—or was it the representatives of the Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas?

From the looks of it, it was both.

But if it was, who was scheduled to meet with the Fiba first, the BAP or the SBP?

Was there some kind of preemption involved here as some people have insinuated?

* * *

As of now, I don't know for sure. Because as I write this, I was informed that the meeting between the SBP and Fiba—represented by Fiba secgen Patrick Baumann and Fiba-Asia secgen Dato Yeoh Choo Hock had just commenced.

It goes without saying that if there had been an earlier meeting between the BAP and the Fiba, details have not been made known so far.

From what I gathered, the BAP group composed of EVP Christian Tan, secretary general Graham Lim and legal counsel Boni Alentajan had flown a few days ahead of the SBP group. Word had it that they had been invited to attend the Fiba-Asia Ladies 18-and-Under which was ongoing.

Newly installed BAP president Go Teng Kok was supposed to be with the group but he had to beg off because of his mother's sudden demise.

* * *

According to a colleague, who had been asked to broker a meeting between the BAP and the SBP, GTK had sent a note for MVP through Alentajan, giving him the authority to meet the SBP head on his behalf.

My colleague disclosed that while MVP had signified his willingness to sit down with GTK, he wasn't sure whether he was willing to do it with Alentajan.

In addition to MVP, the SBP is being represented by vice chairman Ricky Vargas, legal counsel Marievic Anonuevo, JunJun Capistrano and PBA commissioner Noli Eala in Bangkok.

If you ask me, I think this is the best opportunity for everyone to come face-to-face and have a dialogue.

According to my colleague, there is a big possibility this will happen. GTK, whom he had visited at his mother's wake, had told him he was strongly batting for a closure to this two-year-old controversy.

* * *

If we are to make a comparison between Samboy Lim and MacMac Cardona, I'll bet the latter has far surpassed the former in number of facial injuries, although Cardona is only in his sophomore year in the PBA.

Last Friday night, a fresh batch of cross stitches was added to MacMac's collection during the game against Ginebra.

When I asked how many times his face has been cut and bloodied like this, MacMac said he has completely lost track.

"*Siguro ho mga* six times *na, dami na ho akong burda sa mukha, sanay na ho ako*," he said. He admitted though, that he had become too dizzy from the blow and the blood spilled that he couldn't make it back to the court in the last minutes.

For his hundred plus performance this season, the Talk 'N Text cager has three 'best player of the week' awards to show, and of course, his new stitches.

* * *

Mind you, not everyone is against Manny Pacquiao's going into politics. And I'm talking of people who have nothing to gain or lose, whichever decision he makes.

For boxing addicts Teddy Reynoso and Romuel Alarcon, it's all a matter of making history.

"If Manny runs for public office and wins, it will be the first time that this will happen to a boxer who is at the peak of his career," they said.

* * *

As of this moment, there is an 80 percent chance Manny will pursue his plan to run as GenSan mayor.

"He is still weighing his options, *kasi may mawawala rin kay* Manny if he goes into politics," the source said, citing advertising endorsements and time, which he will need for his training.

Of course he will be running against his number one fan and supporter, the incumbent mayor, Pedro Acharon, but this relationship has not been entirely one way.

Manny has also been very supportive of the mayor.

DONDON Hontiveros of San Miguel sneaks in a layup against Red Bull's Mick Pennisi in Friday night's game.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Beermen, Kings seek clincher

IT MUST HAVE SEEMED LIKE THE old days again for Jong Uichico. He was celebrating a victory. His long-time skipper Olsen Racela was doing the same thing.

The only odd thing was they were both doing it from separate locker rooms.

Uichico, though more a picture of relief than satisfaction, watched as his Barangay Ginebra Kings went from standing on the brink of defeat to standing on the edge of a championship appearance after a 108-105 squeaker Friday night gave them a 3-2 edge in their PBA Philippine Cup semifinal series against Talk 'N Text.

GAMES TODAY
(*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:05 p.m.— Ginebra vs Talk 'N Text
6:20 p.m.— Red Bull vs San Miguel

Although he was holed in the dugout while Racela quarterbacked the San Miguel Beermen—a team Uichico steered to title after title at the turn of the millennium—to the same edge in their race-to-four affair against the Red Bull Barako, the soft-spoken mentor was very well aware of the celebration emanating from the other end of the Araneta Coliseum hallway.

He did not let on as to how aware he was, dismissing suggestions that he and his old team looked headed to a championship showdown, right in the first tournament after an unceremonious divorce.

"If it pans out that way, it pans out that way," said Uichico.

Of course, Talk 'N Text and Red Bull will still have a say in which teams will dispute the league's most prestigious trophy.

The Phone Pals and The Barako have Game 6 today at the Araneta Coliseum to prolong the series to a sudden-death seventh game.

In fact, both Uichico and Racela—similarly bred in the school of not looking beyond the next game—are focused only on getting Game 6 over and done with.

"We still need to get to four wins," said the 36-year-old veteran, who finished with 19 points in the Beermen's 111-82 demolition of the Barako.

Uichico figures as much in the Kings-Phone Pals series.

"Talk 'N Text is going to play with its back to the wall [today] and we need to be prepared for everything they will throw at us," he said.

And the Phone Pals have a lot to throw. In Friday's Game 5, the shoe could have easily been on the other foot had it not been for two late stops by the Kings. Ginebra blew a 21-point lead and stared at a three-point deficit in the final 49 seconds before hammering out the victory.

That's why if it were all up to Uichico, there should be no reason to look beyond today's 4:05 p.m. encounter against the Phone Pals, which precedes the Beermen-Barako battle.

Especially since he feels that for such a scenario to happen, Ginebra has to fulfill its part of the deal.

"San Miguel is a strong team," he said. "There's little doubt in my mind that they are going to the championship."

Whether he was trying to get into the minds of his former squad or he really has a lot of leftover faith in his old team, only he can tell.

What he is ready to admit, though, is that for him to cross paths with Racela and the rest of his former players, Ginebra "has to find a way to get into the finals. It's going to be tough, but we have to find a way."

If that, indeed, happens, only one side of the Big Dome hallway will be celebrating in the end. *Francis Ochoa*

Firecracker victim shines in pool

FOR A LOT OF POOL PLAYERS, losing three fingers would have been a disaster.

But not for Jarry Pelayo, an unheralded campaigner from Bacolod City.

Known as "Putol" in local billiard halls, Pelayo aims to follow the footsteps of former world pool champions Efren "Bata" Reyes, Alex Pagulayan and reigning world titlist Ronato Volcano.

The 31-year-old Pelayo is now based in Malate, Manila, engaging in money games just to know where he stands among local pool players.

"I played money games because I want to make a name for myself," said Pelayo, who lost three fingers on his right hand while playing with firecrackers when he was still in Grade Six, he said in Filipino.

"But my main purpose was to gain more knowledge and experience because almost all the players I faced were international campaigners."

Pelayo started playing pool at 12 at the Reptiles billiard hall in Bacolod City owned by sportsman/businessman Jonathan Sy, who saw his potential and pitted him against older players in their place.

Although left with only two fingers on his right hand after his misadventure with firecrackers, Pelayo did not lose heart.

"Instead of sulking, it only challenged me to do even better," said Pelayo, who honed his skills playing against "hustlers" in the Visayas.

After running out of quality opponents, Pelayo went to Manila to play money games and prepare for his first international stint in Japan from March 1 to 8.

"This will be my acid test," said the skinny Pelayo, who left his wife and five children behind in Bacolod. "If I make a name in Japan it would mean that I'm already ripe for big time competition.

During the last World Pool Championship in Manila last November, Pelayo got a crack at some of the foreign pool players, besting Bob Hunter of the United States and other Taiwanese bets.

Pelayo, who idolizes Reyes, revealed that he had a good record against other well known Filipino cue masters as far as money game is concerned.

Among his tournament achievements was topping the 1999 Governors Cup in Laguna and the 2006 Six-Pocket Open in Blumentritt, Manila.

Pelayo is also slated to compete in the "Manny Pacquiao 10-ball Panersera Pababa" set Feb. 26 to 29 in General Santos City.

Nowadays, Pelayo spent 70 percent of his time practicing and playing 9-ball, his favorite 10-ball, 8-ball and rotation.

"This (Japan campaign) is my chance to prove my worth," said Pelayo. "I won't let this opportunity go to waste." *Marlon Bernardino*

PELAYO

More chances for RP Asian tour bets

THE ABSENCE OF EFREN "BATA" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante should open the door for other Filipino cue artists like Lee Vann Corteza and Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat in the Asian Pool Tour.

"This is now their (other players) opportunity," said Harvey Davis, ESPN Star Sports Event Management Senior Director during a teleconference interview on Wednesday at the ProSolutions office in Makati City.

Corteza, champion in the 2006 all Japan tournament, and Luat, the 2006 Taiwan leg winner and 2006 US Open runner-up, now have a bigger opportunity to shine with Reyes and Bustamante skipping the event as endorsers of former Asian 9-ball Tour sponsor San Miguel Beer.

The Billiard and Snooker Congress of the Philippines (BSCP) is in charge of choosing the Filipino cue masters who will get the four slots given to the country for each leg of the Asian Tour.

LUAT

Reigning World Pool champion Ronato Alcano, 2006 World Pool League Invitational ruler Dennis Orcollo, Doha Asian Games gold medalist Antonio Gabica and silver medalist Jeffrey De Luna are in the list of possible entries in the tournament.

The 27-year-old Corteza, a contender in last year's WPC held in Manila before yielding to David Alcaide of Spain, 8-10, in their knockout stage match, promised to do better in the Asian tour starting April 20-22 in Jakarta, Indonesia.

"It would be a big honor If I'm chosen to play for even one leg," said Corteza in Filipino. "There are many talented pool artists in the country and I want to do good in the Asian tour to have another shot at the WPC.

Other Filipino cue artists, have also expressed interest to join the Guinness 9-Ball Tour.

Total prize money has doubled to $320,000 and the Tour will feature a Grand Final in Bali for the Top 10 players. Winners of each leg will win $15,000 while the Grand Final Champion will walk away with $36,000.

Meanwhile, Corteza said Friday that he got an official invitation to play in the 2007 WPA World 8-ball Championship from March 1-8 in Fujairah, United Arab Emirates.

Corteza is a consistent Southeast Asian Games 8-ball individual gold winner—(1999 Brunei, 2001 Malaysia and 2003 Vietnam). He settled for a silver medal in the 2005 Manila edition but bagged the gold in the 8-ball doubles event with Gabica. *Marlon Bernardino, Contributor*

Campomanes survives car accident in Turkey

FLORENCIO Campomanes (left) plays against Toti Abundo.

FORMER WORLD CHESS FEDeration president Florencio Campomanes has been declared out of danger after undergoing extensive surgery from grave injuries suffered in a car accident in Antalya, Turkey, on Friday.

A report from the website chessbase.com. said Campomanes, who will turn 80 on Feb. 22, went through a seven-and-a-half hour operation after he was thrown out of a car which overturned on a wet road while on its way to the airport.

Campomanes, now the world chess federation (Fide) president emeritus, was due to fly back to the Philippines after attending the Fide presidential board meeting when the accident occurred.

According to the report, Campomanes was picked up at 9:30 a.m. from the Limra Hotel, where all the board members resided, and was being driven to the airport when the driver of the car braked sharply to avoid an animal, probably a hare, who jumped out of the bushes and onto the street.

The road was wet and the driver lost control of the car, which overturned to the side of the road.

Campomanes, who was sitting in the back seat and not wearing a safety belt, was thrown out of the car, which was badly damaged with the driver emerging from the wreck with minor injuries.

Campomanes suffered multiple fractures on his legs, hands, neck and face. He was brought to the nearby Kemer Anadolu Hospital by an ambulance that arrived just four minutes after the accident occurred.

He was transferred to the Antalya Anadolu Hospital which has better facilities. While he has been declared out of danger, doctors said he is under observation for fear of complications due to his advanced age.

The Turkish Chess Federation has informed Fide about the condition of Campomanes.

"The Honorary President is under the treatment of the best doctors of Antalya, the Turkish Chess Federation is taking care (of him) and the best treatment will be made available," wrote Ali Nihat Yazici, the president of the TCF.

The National Chess Federation of the Philippines learned of the accident only yesterday. "We'll pray for his (Campomanes) speedy recovery," said NCFP secretary general and Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" Tolentino.

In 1990, the car Campomanes was riding on the way to the airport also turned turtle in Nigeria. Though he didn't suffer major injuries, Campomanes had to wear a neck brace for a while. *NM Marlon Bernardino*

Montiel signs contract to fight Gorres Feb. 24

AFTER GETTING AN ULTIMAtum from the World Boxing Organization, Fernando Montiel yesterday signed the contract for his Feb. 24 WBO super flyweight title defense against Filipino lefty Z Gorres at the Cebu City Sports Complex.

"We received Montiel's contract this morning," said Cebu sportsman Antonio L. Aldeguer, who is putting up the event under the SGG Sports Promotion of Sammy Gello-ani. "The fight is on."

Montiel had earlier refused to sign the contract, insisting that the original date for the fight was March 4, although Gello-ani explained that the Feb. 24 date had been approved by the WBO due to the postponement of the boxing World Cup.

The WBO had warned Montiel that failure to sign the contract within the next 48 hours would prompt the Puerto Rico-based governing body to strip Montiel of the title, and give No. 2 Pramuansak Phosuwan of Thailand the chance to fight Gorres for the vacant crown.

Aldeguer also announced that both Gorres and Rey 'Boom Boom' Bautista have already wrapped up their training at Freddie Roach's Wild Card Gym, and will arrive in the country on Tuesday accompanied by ALA chief trainer Edito Villamor. *Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor*

Mercado gets split draw

WHEN YOU HAVE A VISITING fighter earning a very close split draw with a local hero, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out the rest of the story.

Filipino Jerope Mercado was at the receiving end of another dubious decision yesterday in South Africa when his fight with WBC International bantamweight champion Vusi Malinga ended in a controversial split draw after 12-rounds at the Nasrec Indoor Arena in Johannesburg.

Mercado, according to ringside sources, was winning the fight except in the eyes of two of the three judges who had it a draw and a win for the local boy Malinga. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

SPORTSWATCH

Blu Girls bow to Taiwanese

TAINAN CITY, TAIWAN—THE RP BLU GIRLS SUFFERED YET ANOTHER SETback in their bid to take the first Philippine seat in Olympic softball as they were routed by host Chinese Taipei, 5-1, in the ongoing Asia/Oceana Olympic Qualifier. The loss came after another defeat yesterday at the hands of Olympic veteran New Zealand, 17-4. The Kiwis (4-1) blasted the Blu Girls for 17 hits while giving up only eight touches. The Philippines (1-4) will face Singapore (0-5) this afternoon for the start of the second round. Chinese Taipei leads the field with a 5-0 card while North Korea and South Korea are tied at 2-2.

Dragons notch 5th straight win

THE CHIANG KAI SHEK DRAGONS CONTROLLED THE BOARDS FROM START to finish and came away with an 88-50 stopping of Hope Christian High School in the 31st Hitachi Metro Manila Tiong Lian Basketball Association Junior Tournament at the CKSC gym. With 6-foot-5 Justin Chua lording it over in the shaded lane, the Dragons soared to a 22-11 edge in the first quarter and never looked back to post their fifth straight victory in as many games in this tournament. Terrence Lam showed the way with 17 points as the Dragons moved a win closer of claiming an outright semifinal berth. A sweep of their six-game assignment if they beat St. Jude Catholic School on Wednesday will give the Dragons a chance to move straight to the semifinals. St. Stephen High School leaned on Charles Siy and Patrick Ong to beat UNO High School in overtime, 69-66.

Pureto Galera Windsurfing Open

THE 2007 PUERTO GALERA WINDSURFING OPEN ENDS TODAY AT THE SANDbar Resort in Puerto Galera Bay in Oriental Mindoro. Tourism Sector Coordinating Association President Melo Garcia said the yearly windsurfing event which started Friday will be featured in the Solar Sports Channel with prices for the men, ladies, junior, and novice categories. For information, contact (043)442-0047 or (0918)654-4196.

23 cockpits in SJC National Rambulan

TWENTY-THREE COCKPITS AND SPORTS CENTERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, headed by San Juan Coliseum, have banded together to stage the biggest summer cockfest, dubbed as P10.5 M National Rambulan 8-cock derby slated in February, March and April. Lead organizer Rodolfo Pineda of SJC has appointed Butch Nunez to oversee the elimination and semifinal rounds that will be staged in the following venues: SN Coliseum Ilocos, Isabela Breeders Cokpit, Malolos Cockpit and Sports Arena, Jaen Coliseum, Bacolor Cockpit, Mabuhay Cockpit, Lingayen Sports Complex, Pangasinan Coliseum, Paniqui Coliseum, Solana Cockpit, Malvar Sports Center, Sta. Rita Sportsville, Lucky Sports Complex, Dictado Mega Cockpit, Negros Coliseum, Cagayan Sports Arena, New Talisay Tourist Sports Cebu, Buhangin Cockpit Davao, Iloilo Coliseum, San Luis Sports Center, Gallera de Zamboanga and San Juan Coliseum. The event starts on Feb. 27 at Mabuhay Cockpit in Pampanga. For inquiries, call 725-5369 and 725-6563 or 0917-8041691 (Maricar).

Cainta 5- cocker up tomorrow

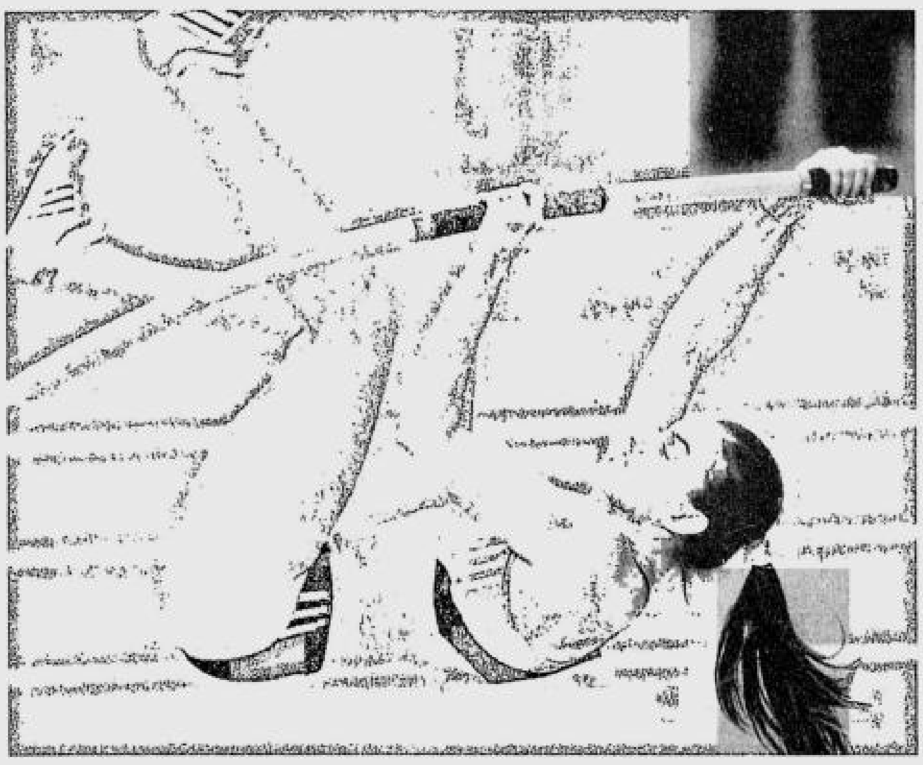
THE THIRD BATCH OF PARTICIPANTS IN THE 300-ENTRY PABUENAS 5-COCK Smalltime Derby collides tomorrow at Cainta Fair Center Coliseum in Cainta, Rizal. Seventy-one matches will be held in the 2-cock elimination round. Cockers of Rizal, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Batangas and Metro Manila will dispute the total guaranteed prize of P1 million, said host Sam Mendoza. As bonus, the fastest win champion will drive home a brand new motorcycle. Two pointers in the elims will share in the P80,000 day prize. Mendoza clarified that no straight five cocks will be allowed and all participants must hurdle the eliminations. The championship round sizzles on Feb. 12. For additional info: 655-3334, 240-0979 or 0928-6316711 (Arnold) and 0915-5656100 (Doc Jovy).

21st ANNUAL RGFFP GOLF FELLOWSHIP TOURNAMENT
AWARDS NIGHT

RGFFP President Poch Borromeo (4th from left), with the tournament committee led by Nonoy Braga, PP Albert Que, and PP Efren Aquino, and champions' Walter Diu, Romy Chong, Roy Centeno and Nestor of RC San Juanico III.

RC San Juanico III prevails

RC SAN JUANICO III CLAIMED THE OVERALL TEAM CROWN IN THE RECENT 21st annual RGFFP (Rotary Golfing Fellowship Foundation of the Philippines) golf tournament in Baguio City. The winning team was composed of Nestor Mercado, Romy Chong, Roy Centeno and Walter Diu. Raoul Jorge of RC Quezon City emerged as low gross champ while Brixton Aw of RC Paseo de Roxas finished as highest pointer. Jorge scored 139 points while Aw fired 96 points. Lino Magpantay tallied 126 points to nip Tito Sotto by one point in the Guest Division. Other winners were RC Quezon City's Ben Jacinto, Tim Abejo, Raoul Jorge and Popoy Flores in the Founder's Division, RC Bagumbayan I's Nelson Cheng, Amb. Vidal Querol, Danny Yu and Albert Que in the Governors' Division, RC Dagupan East II's Juancho Benin, Angelo Juan, Manny Velasco and Rod Segui in the President's Division and RC San Juanico's I's Ed de Jesus, Pete Fustanes, Paul Quianzon and Stef Ruiz in the Fellowship Division. RC QC tallied 169 points to edge RC Lipa/ South's Abe Avena, Chito Recto, Emil Alviar and Bill Gwan Yoon (167).


RECORD HOLDER: World record holder Yelena Isinbayeva of Russia competes in the women's pole vault event at the 100th Millrose Games in New York City. AFP

Valley hosts Dela Costa Cup

THE FOURTH HORACIO DELA COSTA CUP golf tournament will be held tomorrow at the championship south course of the Valley Golf and Country Club in Antipolo. Shotgun start is at 12:30 p.m.

The tourney is open to all students, alumni and parents of participating students of Ateneo. College entries as well as parents and alumni will tee off from the blue tees, high school from the white and grade school from the red markers.

Format is a 4-man team Modified Scramble Format with one student (GS, HS, College or Professional Schools) and three alumni (and/or parents) per team.

The De La Costa Cup is designed to promote linkages between students and alumni, allow alumni to asses the progress of and lend support to the University's golf development program and promote camaraderie within the Ateneo golf community.

All participating teams will be divided into three categories/divisions determined by the status of the student participant of the team.

Division I will be composed of teams with students in college/professional Schools in their rosters, while Divisions II and III will have teams with High School and Grade School students as team members respectively.

The tournament/registration fee covers the green fee plus subsidy for the student player.

Makati int'l derby tomorrow

WITH ALL 24 FOREIGN PARTICIPANTS IN town, the Makati International 8-Cock Super Derby starts tomorrow at the Makati Coliseum.

Raring to field their prized gladiators are Dink Fair, Bill Mcnatt, Jr Belt and Jerry Cottam of Oklahoma, Rey Westal of New Mexico, Jerry Wesson of Iron City, Alabama, Jay Gentry of Lousiana, Jess Casey and Randy Hall of Texas, Jaime Bustle of Kentucky, Fil -Ams Aster Lopez, Joe Cuyugan and Zaldy Sandoval of California.

Hawaii cockers Robert Dadis, Peter Sarte, Randy Tanaka and Randy Jugas, who dominated cockfight derbies in North Shore, Wai'anae, Waialua and Waipahu; will field a total of six entries.

Two-time World Slasher Cup champion Carol Nesmith of Alabama will team up with Filipino partners Willie Villarica and Nene Abello while Bruce Barnette combines with Gerry Ramos and Sonny Lagon.

The three-day event, which offers a guaranteed prize of P3 million, will be hosted by Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp.

All participants will receive P5,000 bonus bet certificates each from Casino Filipino-Heritage on Monday. The champion gets a P30,000 bonus.

All official entries (weight limits of 1.9 kg to 2.5 kg) must be submitted today, from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. For details, call 895-6475 and 896-3545 (Joan or Stephanie).

The derby starts with the 2-cock elimination round on Monday, beginning at 4 p.m.

Banson-Santos rules Yulo golf

CANLUBANG, LAGUNA—THE ONOFRE Banson Jr.-Derek Santos tandem played steady last weekend to total 164 points and run away with the overall championship in the 29th Jose Yulo Memorial tournament.

Banson-Santos scored 75 in the first day at the South course and 89 in the second over at the North to bag the centerpiece division by four points over Monet La'O – Ramon Lacson (82-78). They won a handsome trophy and a home theater system.

Tibs Carandang and Gerry Sales totalled 157 after rounds of 77 and 80 for third place.

Mari Hechanova and Iggy Clavecilla combined for rounds of 141 and 147 to rule the overall team gross division with ease with a 288 tally.

Reigning RP Am champ and Canlubang PAL Interclub team mainstay Jay Bayron shot 69 and 67 for the individual low gross championship. Jun Bernis was second after a 69-72.

James Alviar won a cash prize and a digital camera for acing the 164-yard fourth hole of the North course in the company of Bernis, Darly Patalot and Bambi Rivilla.

RACING TIPS

By TOP CHOICE

Race 1 (Qrt/Tri)—Sweetsouthernsaint (7), Que Fresca (5), Loveable Dolly (3), King's Treasure (2)
Race 2 (Qrt/Tri)—Defiant (6), Angie Gray (4), Magic Key (3), Spanish Drums (5)
Race 3 (Qrt/Tri)—Manhattan (8), Red Star Rising (5), Native Land (2), Sutter's Quest (1)
Race 4 (Tri)—Ziraz (5), Flying Princess (4), Gold Is Gold (3)
Race 5 (Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Grand Fiesta/Bloodline (13), Passing Through (4), Gold Money (6), Run Like D'Wind (1), Quant Je Puis (5), King's Choice (8).
Race 6 (Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Royal Heiress (80, In Excess (4), Best of Thunder (1), Henry D'Eight (7), Thor Azura (2), Mukels Pride (11)
Race 7 (Tri)—Empire King (4), Master King (5), Cutting Edge/Earl Gray (1)
Race 8 (Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Shipman (2), Kilimanjaro (6), Dato's Pride (8), Golden Song (3), Xtreme Heat (1)
Race 9 (Qrt/Tri)—Romanticist (6), Honestly (5), Kang Kang (7), Sun Coast (3)
Race 10 (Qrt/Tri)—Manila's Gem (5), Strong Boy (4), Erica's Talent (3), Step On The Gas (2)
Race 11 (Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Dona Gelay (8), Stratosphere (10), Shifty (2), En Gedi/Long Hitter (3), Extreme Romance (1)
Race 12 (Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Dona Nene (8), Divine Diva/Pabilic Express (1), Boss Lady (8), Concorde (5), Raging Tsunami (4)
Race 13 (Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Whistle Blower (11), All Class (10), Vinfa's Pride Loaded (4), Quick Pick (3), Valiant Queen (6), Canta Libre (7)

Puerto Princesa braces for Moto Masters

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY EYES ANOTHER record high as it gears up for the country's biggest motorsports event, the 2007 Puerto Princesa City Motocross Masters of Asia FIM-UAM Asian Motocross Championships, set March 4 at the permanent motocross racetrack adjacent to the Puerto Princesa City City Hall.

This will be the fourth year in a row that Puerto Princesa will be hosting the event. Mayor Edward Hagedorn, together with City Administrator lawyer Agustin Rocamora, have mapped out bigger plans and preparations to ensure its success and boost the city's tag as Sports Tourism Capital of the Philippines.

The event, supported by City of Puerto Princesa, Aboitiz 2GO, Oakley and the Philippine Sports Commission, also serves as the highlight of the weeklong festivities of the Puerto Princesa City Foundation Day.

"We're looking forward to surpassing the record number of 70,000 local and visiting spectators for the event, "said Hagedorn.

Defending champion Arnon Theplib of Thailand leads the 25 riders from 12 nations vying for the coveted crown in the centerpiece Asian Open 125cc class & the Junior Asian 85cc Class.

Aside from the Philippines, other countries competing are Japan, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, China, Thailand, New Zealand, Guam, UAE and Hong Kong.

HAGEDORN

The Philippines' Glenn Aguilar is gearing up for the event together with teammate Kenneth San Andres as he vowed to give his all for the country's pride and honor and regain the crown he won in 2004.

For details, e-mail namssa01@hotmail.com or call 0917-8992363 or check out www.asiamx.org.

Sunday SPORTS

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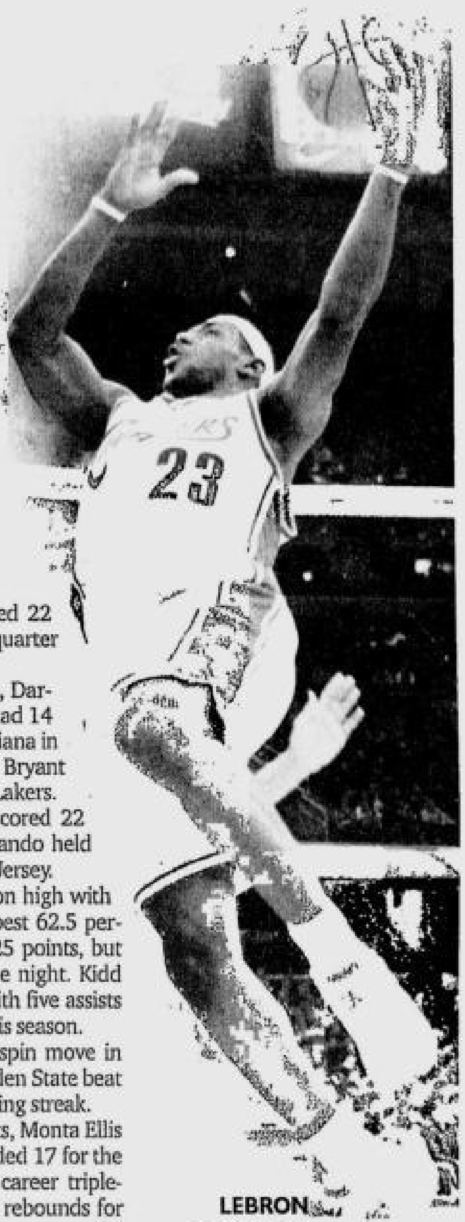
Celtics suffer record slump



LEBRON James soars to the basket. REUTERS

BOSTON—THE BOSTON CELTICS LOST THEIR franchise-record 14th consecutive game Friday, falling, 100-89, to Elton Brand and the Los Angeles Clippers.

Brand had 26 points, 19 rebounds and four blocks, and Cuttino Mobley added 20 points for the Clippers, who have won seven of their last eight.

Tim Thomas scored 12 of his 17 points in the fourth quarter, five of them during a 7-0 stretch in which LA turned a 71-69 deficit into a 76-71 lead.

Rajon Rondo, making his first career start, scored 23 points for the Celtics.

In other games, it was Indiana 95, LA Lakers 84; Golden State 102, Philadelphia 101; Toronto 103, Atlanta 91; Cleveland 101, Charlotte 81; Orlando 119, New Jersey 86; Detroit 96, Milwaukee 86; New Orleans 90, Minnesota 83; Denver 114, Portland 107, OT; Chicago 107, Seattle 101

At Cleveland, LeBron James scored 18 points, 13 after halftime, and Cleveland bounced back from a tough road loss to beat Charlotte.

One night after blowing a 12-point lead in the fourth quarter and letting Miami's Dwyane Wade score 24 points in the final period, the Cavaliers built a double-digit lead by halftime and rolled. James, slowed by a sprained right big toe that might bother him all season, added 10 rebounds in 35 minutes.

Gerald Wallace, coming off a franchise-record 42-point game Wednesday night against New York, led Charlotte with 16 points.

At Indianapolis, Jermaine O'Neal scored 22 points and Indiana used a 17-2 fourth-quarter run to beat the Los Angeles Lakers.

Jamaal Tinsley finished with 16 points, Darrell Armstrong and Danny Granger each had 14 and O'Neal grabbed nine rebounds for Indiana in the Pacers' fifth win in six games. Kobe Bryant had 22 points on 7-of-25 shooting for the Lakers.

At Orlando, Florida, Hedo Turkoglu scored 22 points, Dwight Howard had 19, and Orlando held All-Star Jason Kidd scoreless to beat New Jersey.

Orlando rookie JJ Redick tied his season high with 13 points, and the Magic shot a season-best 62.5 percent. Vince Carter led New Jersey with 25 points, but the Nets struggled offensively most of the night. Kidd was 0-for-5 from the field and finished with five assists in 26 minutes in his first scoreless game this season.

At Philadelphia, Al Harrington's nifty spin move in the paint with 1.2 seconds left helped Golden State beat Philadelphia and snap a six-game road losing streak.

Baron Davis had 25 points and 12 assists, Monta Ellis scored 21 points and Stephen Jackson added 17 for the Warriors. Andre Iguodala had his third career triple-double with 25 points, 13 assists and 10 rebounds for Philadelphia. *AP*

- **NBA TODAY ON BASKETBALL TV**

9:30 a.m.—Minnesota vs. Dallas (replays @ 4 p.m. & 9:30 p.m.)

Injured Sharapova crashes out

SHARAPOVA: Disappointing REUTERS

TOKYO—SECOND-SEEDED MARtina Hingis will face Serbia's Ana Ivanovic in the Pan Pacific Open final after top-ranked Maria Sharapova retired during the second set of her semifinal Saturday with a hamstring injury.

After dropping the first set, 6-1, Sharapova consulted with her trainer. She won the first game of the second set before retiring.

"It's disappointing to have to finish this way," Sharapova said. "I started to feel pain in the second game of the first set. I tried to go on, but you can't get away with it when you are playing against a top player."

Hingis posted a 6-4, 6-3 win over defending champion Elena Dementieva to reach Sunday's final.

Sharapova, who reclaimed the No. 1 spot in the WTA Tour rankings on Monday, lost to Serena Williams in the final of last week's Australian Open.

The Russian had 17 double-faults in her first match against Italy's Francesca Schiavone and double-faulted 14 times Friday in the quarterfinals against Ai Sugiyama of Japan. Sharapova refused to blame the injury on her schedule.

"I have a simple and easy schedule compared to the other girls," she said. "There's no doubt it's difficult when you come straight from a Grand Slam. The surface here is quite different and the change in court might have something to do with it."

Sharapova said her trainer told her she would likely need about a week to recover.

"I didn't have pain like this during the Australian Open," added Sharapova. "This is like a sudden, sharper pain I felt when I landed on the serve." *AP*

Bears, Colts ready

MIAMI—THE COACHes are best of pals, spiritual soulmates and one of them even goes by the name "Lovie".

But don't let that fool you because Super Bowl 41 in Miami still promises to be a hard-hitting, savage affair between the Chicago Bears and Indianapolis Colts.

Lovie Smith's Bears seek their first American football title in 21 years against the Tony Dungy's Colts, who started 9-0 then lost three of their final five before picking it up again in the playoffs.

"I'm excited now, but I am trying to suppress that energy, stay calm, and then on Sunday, just explode," said Colts linebacker Cato June.

Weather forecasters are predicting a soggy Sunday and possibly some thunderstorms.

The Colts depend on a passing game, so rain could be a disadvantage for them.

Indianapolis punter Hunter Smith said wet weather won't bother him.

"I'll just go out and catch the ball," Smith said.

It's the third time in franchise history the Colts have tried to win a title in Miami. While still in Baltimore, they lost to the New York Jets in 1969 and beat the Dallas Cowboys two years later. *AFP*

METRO

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- Are you up in arms against the demolition of an ancestral house?
- Awed by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Got stuck in potholes?
- Fed up with cussing and feuding neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

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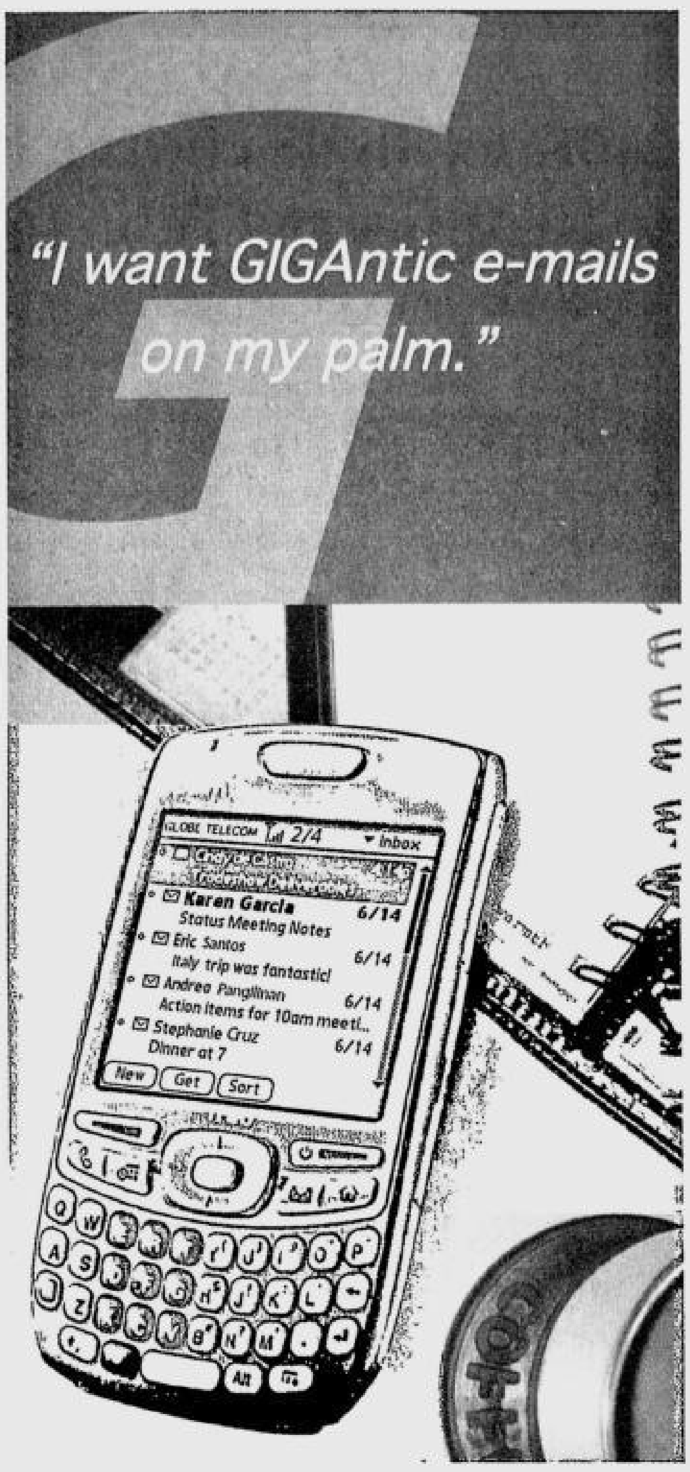

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Intoxicating prospects of lambanog

Local vodka from Quezon province to invade US liquor market

VuQo
VuQo
VuQo
VuQo

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Inquirer Southern Luzon

TAYABAS, QUEZON—THE Internet highway served as the bridge between a Filipino-American wine trader and a local distiller in this bucolic town at the foot of the mystical Mt. Banahaw so that the fiery coconut-based liquor popularly called "lambanog" could enter the highly competitive US market.

Rich Cabael, 34, former vice president of a California-based liquor company and Lito Mallari (not related to this writer), owner of the country's oldest "lambanog" distillery bearing his family name, is set to launch the first Filipino vodka brand, VuQo Premium Coconut Vodka, in the US in the second quarter of this year.

"Our goal is to create a Philippine wine and spirit brand that can compete with other brands from all over the world," Cabael says in an interview here Wednesday.

"We're creating products that are familiar to the liquor industry but are unique in origin, process, and even history, and we're going to brand them to appeal to a worldwide market," adds the Manila-born businessman.

The inspiration to create a "lambanog" brand for export came to Cabael during the Wine and Spirits Wholesalers of America Annual Convention in 2005.

He says the display of numerous elegant wine bottles in the convention caught his fancy. "There ought to be a Philippine wine which I can put inside one of those bottles," Cabael told himself after noticing the absence of local brands in the wine trade congress.

The exquisite taste of "lambanog" cropped into his mind when he remembered his first swig of the Filipino vodka while vacationing with friends in Bohol in 2004.

Upon his return to the US, he immediately turned to the Internet and begun to surf and scout for possible sources of the native wine.

Finding Mallari's Distillery through the Internet was easy as there were numerous posted articles about the native liquor, which is distinct to this town, 143 kilometers southeast of Metro Manila.

Cabael's associates in Manila contacted Mallari and inspected the distillery plant located just outside the town.

What followed was a series of teleconferences for detailed negotiations and sending of "lambanog" samples to the US.

The wine trader flew back to the Philippines to personally meet Mallari and formally ink the partnership.

Cabael formed VuQo Incorporated to handle the wine business in Manila. He assembled a team of friends driven by a strong entrepreneurial spirit and with experience and expertise in the fields of manufacturing, operations, sales and marketing.

"For one whole year, we focused our efforts on research and studies on how to further enhance the already superb quality of my 'lambanog' to suit the picky taste of wine connoisseurs abroad. And the resulting taste was heaven sent," Mallari says with pride.

According to Cabael, VuQo Premium Coconut Vodka is the first of its kind in the global spirits market.

"While most vodkas are distilled from grain and potatoes, VuQo is the only vodka in its class to be distilled from coconut nectar," he says.

The brand name is a spin-off from the word "buko", the Tagalog name of coconut.

"When we first wrote the word VuQo, it looked incredible and impressive. The market worldwide can easily remember the product, not only the Filipinos, because of the inherent impact of the word," Cabael explains.

For the venture, Mallari, an accountant, says they only use the best coconut sap they could collect during the summer season for the production of the tonic drink.

"Lambanog" is created from the dripping sap called "tuba" from the coconut flower. The sweet and frothy tuba—a rejuvenating drink by itself is cooked through a process of natural fermentation and distillation that produces the native wine.

The sap is gathered by a "mangangarit" in a dangerous morning ritual involving the climbing of tall coconut trees and crossing of bamboo bridges connecting the trees to be able to collect the fresh raw material.

"Lambanog" making is one of the sources of livelihood of most Tayabas natives.

The VuQo vodka, 40 percent alcohol by volume or 80 proof is distilled twice using a time-intensive distillation process that makes use of a series of sediment and carbon filters.

The final product is elegantly packaged in a frosted and silk-screened 750 ml bottle designed by architect/graphic designer Carlos Hubilla, "a costly investment to be able to elevate the product to premium status," Cabael says.

A fully spread coconut leaf serves as the distinctive feature of the classy wine bottle covered with a screw cap and sealed to maintained the ethnic flavor and freshness.

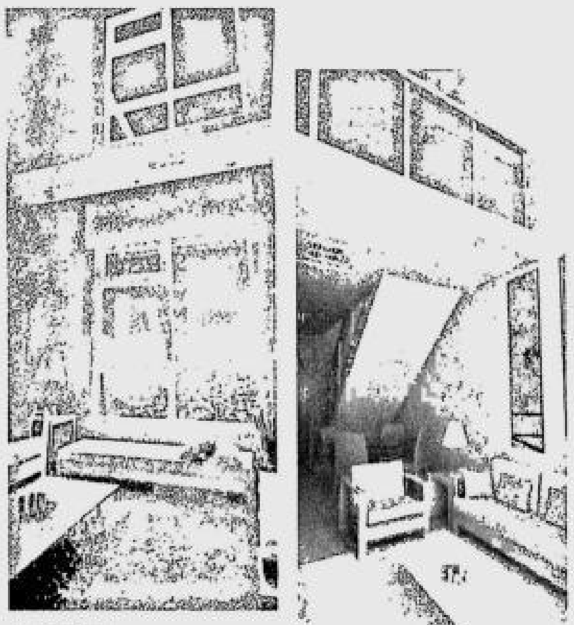
"Most quality wines and liquor are contained in frosted bottles. We want the people to remember the brand and the leaf identified with it," Cabael explains.

"Together, VuQo Inc. and Mallari Distillery have created an innovative, high-quality luxury product that could potentially become the first internationally recognized premium Filipino vodka brand," says Cabael.

The product is packed in boxes

INTOXICATING/ B2

THE FORT
RESIDENCES



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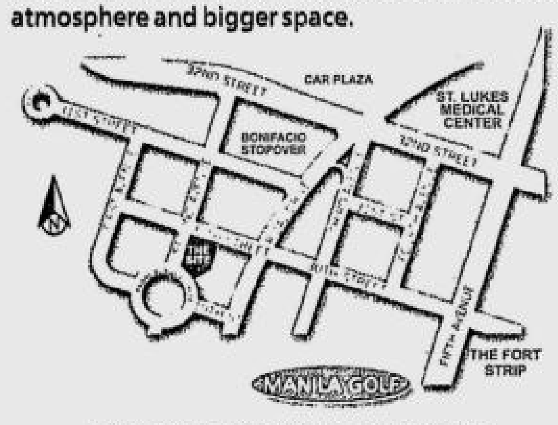

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Marketing to a special tier of clients

TO THE AVERAGE CONSUMER, a new wine place at the tony Serendra complex in Bonifacio Global City and a Japanese restaurant that opened last June in Salcedo Village in Makati may seem no different from the scores of shops and restaurants opening in Metro Manila every week.

Without the benefit of extensive advertising or publicity, nevertheless, Barolo Wine Shop at the Bonifacio High Street mall and Nanohana on Valero Street in Makati are currently among the city's hottest retail attractions, thanks to a strong high-end following.

To taste the special Japanese Wagyu steak priced at P2,500 per order at Nanohana, for instance, reservations are definitely required particularly at lunch on a weekday.

Neither is it advisable to just walk into Barolo's private room to sample any of its highly valued French or Italian wines for the place may already be reserved for another client.

Both outlets are American Express Peso Platinum Partners. There are over 30 American Express Peso Platinum Partners that give special privileges and discounts to cardmembers that include successful businessmen, entrepreneurs, top executives and professionals.

Among retailers, being selected as a Platinum Partner by the respected card company has become an acknowledgement of success and strong patronage by affluent customers.

According to Grace D. Limjap, card marketing head, the credit card company constantly seeks out and tracks popular high-end shops, restaurants, resorts and other outlets favored by its well-heeled cardmembers.

For merchants, being part of the Platinum Partners program means being able to market more efficiently to the card firm's special tier of clients.

A Platinum Partner merchant provides discounts and privileges. Cardmembers receive a catalogue that lists the merchants on the program and the special offers to cardmembers.

The 2007 Platinum Partners catalogue is due this January.

Melissa A. Lopez, card marketing executive, relates that the company can leverage the strong buying power of American Express' select clientele to win cardmembers more attractive packages and sometimes exclusive discounts.

According to Lopez, establishments that share American Express' premium market are highly likely to give special treatment to cardmembers.

$600-B opportunity for firms targeting the wealthy of Asia

THE GLITTERING SILVER MARKET
Yuwa Hedrick-Wong

THE SIZE AND SPENDING power of the affluent and rich consumers of Asia are expected to expand quickly over the next decade, reaching more than 11 million wealthy households in affluent Asia and more than 58 million in emerging Asia. This key group of consumers will present an enormous business opportunity of more than $600 billion in discretionary spending, according to a newly published book by the Asia-Pacific economic advisor to MasterCard Worldwide.

The wealthy in Japan ($229.7 billion), China ($166.2 billion) and Korea ($90.8 billion) are estimated to have the largest discretionary spend in 2015, with spend from the three markets contributing to more than 80 percent of the total discretionary spend in Asia.

The biggest discretionary expenditure item for the wealthy in more than half of the markets across Asia—Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines—will be dining and entertainment.

Interestingly, shopping is the largest discretionary expenditure item for wealthy Indians while wealthy Australians and Taiwanese consumers will spend the most on travel and leisure.

In China and Singapore, the largest expenditure will be on automobiles, PCs and mobile phones.

Authored by Dr. Yuwa Hedrick-Wong and published by John Wiley & Sons, the book "Succeeding Like Success: The Affluent Consumers of Asia" examines the expanding size and spending power of wealthy consumers (sub-divided into "mass affluent" and "rich" households) in both the affluent and emerging markets of Asia, and sheds light on the evolution of these consumers, providing businesses with vital information on which to base their plans and competitive strategies.

While acknowledging that the consumption behavior of these wealthy consumers are influenced by factors such as age, gender, lifecycle stages and related personal characteristics, the book provides new insights into these consumers by examining their pathways to affluence.

These are broadly divided into three categories—the inheritance pathway, where wealth is built through inheritance, family connections and support; the pioneering pathway, where one creates massive wealth from literally nothing through entrepreneurial energy and successfully seizing and exploiting opportunities; and the professional pathway, where one acquires professional skills and accreditations to enter well-paid employment.

From this, three key concepts have been identified as common themes for capturing this consumer segment—convenience, trust and success.

Success is however the overriding concept among the three as the affluent and rich in all three pathways tend to see themselves as successful and would like to be more successful. As consumers, they not only want to be treated as being successful but also want to do business with other successful individuals. A useful platform in dealing with them is "shared success" and the company or brand that does the selling has to come from a position of success, and help these consumers become more successful.

"Due to the incredibly diverse and complicated socioeconomic histories of Asia, an understanding of the pathways to success of Asia's affluent is an effective perspective for businesses to leverage," suggested Hedrick-Wong. "Each of the three generic pathways is embedded in some core experiences and values, which in turn mold the affluent as consumers. These are important insights that could help businesses to focus on and capture these successful people as valuable customers."

"Succeeding Like Success: The Affluent Consumers of Asia" is the third in a series of books that have been released by MasterCard, and is based on market-specific research, as well as the MasterCard suite of research products in Asia/Pacific. This research is available for free access at www.masterintelligence.com.

Watch venture goes 24/7

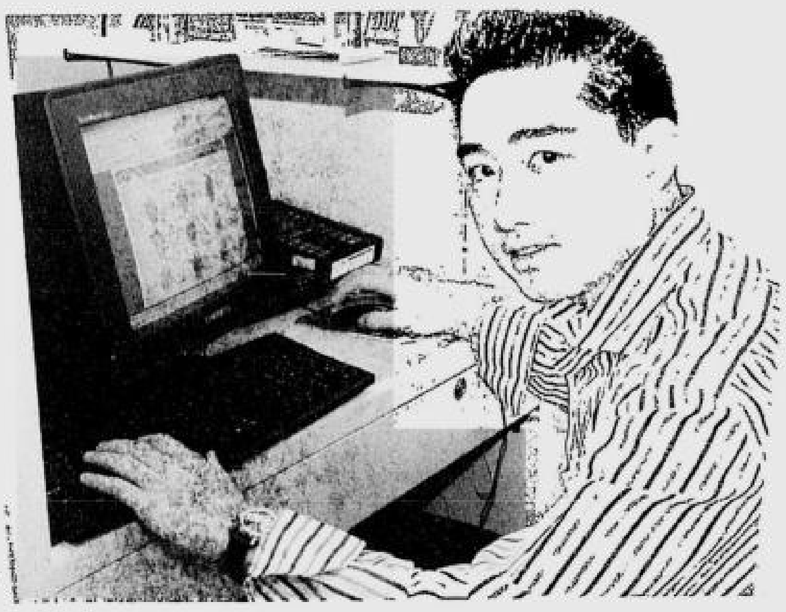
ENTREPRENEUR MOISES GO IS excited.

His first website had just been finished. The photo gallery features a stunning array of exquisite watches for men and women. The layout is simple and easy to navigate even for first timers. He had just talked to a couple of banks about supporting his E-commerce system. It won't be long till www.timegalleryonline.com becomes the virtual watch store of his dreams.

Moises is taking his enterprise toward a new and progressive direction. After six years in the watch business, selling and trading Swiss watches and luxury brands like Rolex, Cartier, Bulgari and Patek Philippe at Time Gallery in Greenhills and sister branch Galerie Des Temps at the Makati Shangri-La, he is opening shop in one of the busiest marketplaces in the world—the Internet.

"The trend is really to go online. Most watch stores in the US, Hong Kong and other parts in Asia now have websites where they feature their watches and market them internationally. I've seen how websites have made good business for these watch stores. They get better exposure and a wider market reach. I want to replicate that kind of success with Time Gallery," explained Moises.

To get his project off the ground, Moises figured it's about time to get a broadband connection. He immediately availed of a PLDT myDSL Plan Xcel with speeds up to 2.2 mbps.


MOISES Go

While building his website, Moises uses his PLDT myDSL to correspond with suppliers via email. He does research on the Internet for the latest watch models, fashion and lifestyle trends, and releases from competitive brands. The Internet also helps him in appraising used or dated watch models by learning about their history and rarity.

Often, he visits the websites of Rolex, Cartier and other name brands to see who the latest endorsers are. According to Moises, endorsers can make a difference in the price and salability of the watch.

"If you know who the endorser is and you think their campaign is going to be successful, you can order that watch and in a few months, the price might appreciate," he said.

Aside from selling watches online, Moises looks forward to his clients' comments, suggestions and questions about his products and services.

"If they have questions about their watches, whether it's about repairs or getting their watch appraised, they could just e-mail the photo and details to me. By going online, it will definitely be easier and more convenient for both me and my clients."

While international businesses have set the pace for Internet marketing, more and more Filipino enterprises are now making the bold leap from the confines of an office space to cyberspace. PLDT myDSL helps PanArts, a Cebu-based company that designs and exports world-class costume jewelry, draw in foreign buyers through its website.

Deltavir Overseas Job Placement places hundreds of highly skilled Filipinos in well-paying jobs in Europe and the Middle East through its myDSL connection. And now, Moises Go is counting the days until the Time Gallery website is up and ready for the world.

PLDT myDSL offers key solutions designed for enterprises like Time Gallery. Budding entrepreneurs can power up their business with PLDT BizDSL's Small Micro at up to 1.7 mbps for as low as P3,000 monthly. There is also Smallbiz Lite at up to 2 Mbps for only P4,000. For businesses that run bandwidth-hungry applications, PLDT BizDSL offers speeds of up to 2.7 Mbps.

Know the PLDT BizDSL Internet package that is right for your business. Log on to www.mypad.net, call 171 or visit your nearest PLDT Business Office for details.

Intoxicating . . .

From page B1

of 12 bottles. The boxes are another work of art with its exquisite design, adds Cabael.

Driven by a strong faith in the quality of their product, the duo believe that the Filipino vodka brand can stand alongside popular spirits as Stolichnaya, Absolut, Smirnoff and Grey Goose.

The US marketing of the new vodka will be handled by VuQo International with the first container van containing at least 12,800 bottles set to be shipped starting next month.

"We've already saturated the US with samples and the reception of the market has been very good and encouraging," Cabael says. He says the product will be sold at $24 a bottle.

The follow up orders for three more container vans are now being negotiated, according to Mallari.

"Lambanog" has long been identified by the Department of Trade and Industry through its export promotion arm, the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions, as one of the Philippines' potential export product.

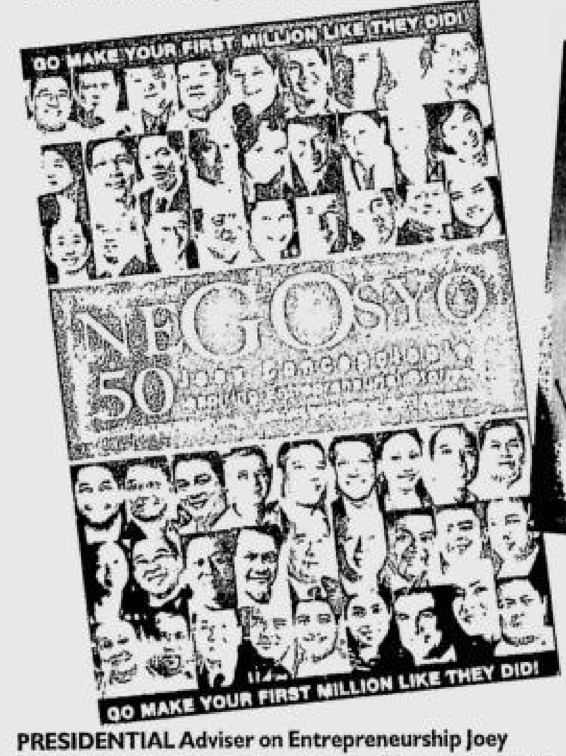
The former backyard liquor industry has started to collect several awards of recognition from international trade festivals, one of which was the Asian Ethnic Food Festival where the "flower-based liquor" has been classified as an "ethnic drink."

Mallari's original "lambanog" is also being exported to Asian and European countries under the brand "Philippine Lambanog-distilled coconut wine."

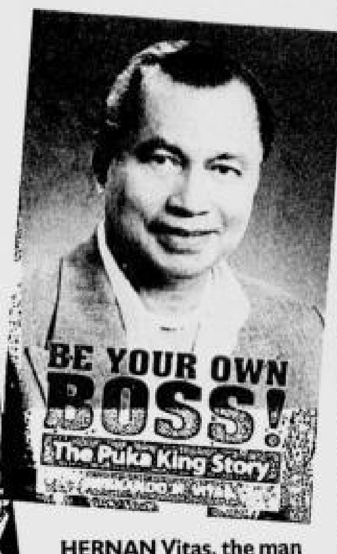
Books for entrepreneurs to do business by

SUNDAYBIZ features some new publications that can inspire or motivate entrepreneurs in the New Year.

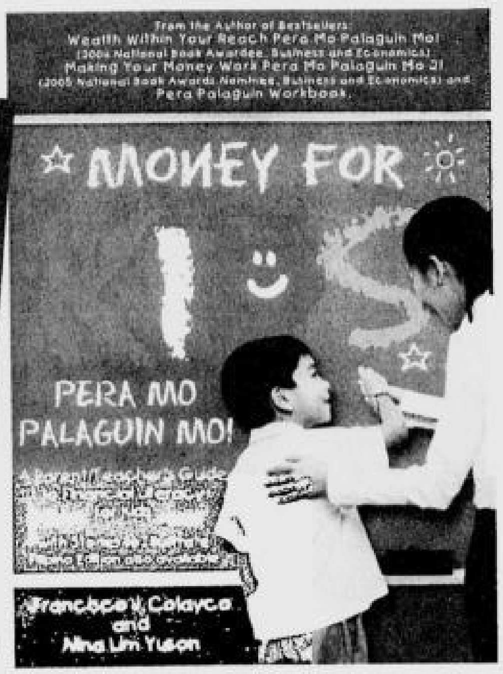
All are available in your favorite bookstores.


GO MAKE YOUR FIRST MILLION LIKE THEY DID!
NEGOSYO
50
GO MAKE YOUR FIRST MILLION LIKE THEY DID!

PRESIDENTIAL Adviser on Entrepreneurship Joey Concepcion comes up with a book on 50 entrepreneurs and businessmen, personally chosen by him. The list includes several families who were already born with silver spoons in their mouths and rags-to-riches persons like Jollibee's Tony Tancaktiong.



HERNAN Vitas, the man who earned his riches from the puka craze of the '70s writes his autobiography, tracing his roots from a shoe shine boy to a tower builder. By writing his story, Vitas hopes to inspire the youth to be self-employed instead of just seeking employment.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Francisco J. Colayco
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Nina Lim Yuson

FINANCIAL advisor and book author Francisco J. Colayco and educator Nina Lim Yuson tie up to come up with a guide for parents and teachers to introduce young kids to financial matters via 10 stories.

blessings in disguise
coincidence or miracle? III
inspiring stories compiled by
Flor Gozon Tarriela
and
Butch Jimenez
edited by
Mia Rocha Lauchengco

BROTHERS Felipe and Benjamin Gozon could well have inherited their business acumen from their mother Carolina. Felipe is the chair of broadcasting giant GMA 7, while his brother manages the Gozon Development Corp.

Between his mom and dad, Felipe describes Carolina as the "more entrepreneurial one." She ran a patis-making (fish sauce) business," said his son in a story titled "No Growth in These Mountains."

"My mother was disappointed and hurt (when she discovered) that she had paid her supplier for sacks of salt—a basic raw material for fish sauce—that she never got. This crystallized her idea of having her own salt beds," said Benjamin, in "The Unreliable Supplier."

Benjamin added: "It was not easy for her, because at the age of 50, when most people were retiring, my mother was starting a new business. But to this day, more than 40 years later, our family still enjoys the crystal-clear and unpolluted fruits of those salt beds."

The stories of the Gozon brothers are only two of more than a hundred stories on coping with disappointment, failure, loss and heartache that pack the pages of the inspirational book "Blessings in Disguise." For bulk orders, call 867-1055 and 0906-5064764.

FOOD GROUP TURNS 20

Putting its best foot (and food) forward

HIGH PRODUCTION COST. SUPPLY inefficiency. Lack of funding support.

Food manufacturers have been encountering these hurdles. And with the country's entry into the World Trade Organization comes another major problem which may sound the death knell for local food products—cheap imported goods.

But for the members of the Philippine Food Processors and Exporters' Organization (Philfoodex), is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, these are not road blocks but challenges they can surmount.

The group is the country's biggest umbrella organization of local food processors and exporters with 200 members.

Founded in 1987, when the country was recreating a favorable business climate, Philfoodex has been trying to unite all players involved in the food sector to make Philippine products world-class.

As part of its 20th founding year, Philfoodex is staging the Sixth Philippine Food Expo on February 1-4, 2007 at the Megatrade Hall of the SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City.

"The Philippine Food Expo is the ultimate showcase of the best of Filipino food products from all over the country geared towards helping local manufacturers and processors with the belief that the food industry holds the key to economic recovery," says Philfoodex vice-president Ruben See and chair of the expo's organizing committee.

He is also president of Sees International which exports banana chips to Japan and supplies Philippine Airlines with snacks under the Golden Chips brand.

He said the Expo will once again showcase Filipino ingenuity resourcefulness and creativity to boost the growth of the food sector despite the many challenges it is facing.

While the country is not wanting in good food products, the lack of certain systems and infrastructures hinder them from attaining global status.

In its 20 years of existence, among the major concerns the group has addressed is the lack of financing for start-ups, with the setting up of the Philippine Export Import Credit Agency Philexim to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) secure loans from banks.

The Philexim is an affiliate of Philfoodex which serves as a clearing house for those intending to secure loans. As a result, with the help of the association, many SMEs were able to expand and penetrate the international market because of the bigger capital at their disposal.

See pointed out that Philfoodex envisions itself as a "big brother" of SMEs by providing opportunities for growth, expansion and networking.

Philfoodex is also actively making representations with concerned government agencies in addressing the other concerns affecting the whole food production cycle.

He said that in countries where the food business is very progressive, the government is playing a very active role, not only by providing financial support, but by creating a conducive business atmosphere for SMEs.

On the deluge of cheap imported goods, See said that food manufacturer should find niche markets where Filipino products can excel such as seafoods, fruits and vegetables.

Most food producers use farm products, hence there is a need to implement a long-overdue modernization program for the agriculture sector.

The only all-Filipino consumer trade fair, the Expo presents a two-pronged approach in assisting exhibitors. There will be consultative seminars sessions to include safety awareness, licenses to operate, packaging and labeling, among others.

It also serves as a ticket to a wide range of concessions from both the foreign and local markets.

"If all players in the food sector can get their acts together, I am confident we can put our best foot-and our best food-forward despite the stiff global competition," See concludes.

The Expo is a joint undertaking with the Departments of Agriculture, Science and Technology, Trade and Industry-CITEM, Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of Commerce, Market Encounter Goes to Manila Foundation and the Philippine Exporters Confederation, Inc.

Chocolate Balls from Batangas
EXCELLENCE
ANTONIO PUEO
CACAO
Batangas
Spanish Chocolate Tableas de Cacao
Spanish Chocolate Tableas de Cacao
courtesy of: Antonio Pueo Chocolates
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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE & INDUSTRY PHILIPPINES

THE FOREIGN TRADE SERVICE CORPS

Is in search of

COMMERCIAL ATTACHÉS
(Trade Service Officer IV)
to:

1. develop and promote growth of Philippine exports in the world market
2. generate foreign investments
3. keep local/domestic business well informed about international issues on market access, global competitiveness and market situation and trends

The POWER to do Business with the World is in Your hands

SELECTION STEPS

	Selection Step	Date	Venue
I.	*Written Technical Exam* • Luzon • Visayas • Mindanao	14, 15 & 16 of February	DTI Makati DTI Cebu DTI Davao
II.	*Panel Interview*	22, 23, 26 & 27 of February	DTI Makati
III.	*Simulation Exercise*	26, 27, 28 of February & 01, 02 of March	DTI Makati
IV.	*Psychological Appraisal*	6, 7, 8 & 9 of March	QC
V.	*EXCOM Interview*	16 March	DTI Makati

Note:
1. Each selection step is a hurdle point. Candidate has to meet the required rating per selection step to be able to proceed to the succeeding activity
2. Specific date per selection step will be pre-assigned to successful candidates
3. Candidates who pass the psychological examination will be scheduled to take the Career Service Professional Eligibility Exam. CSC Examination date will be announced later.

CORE REQUISITES

Education, Relevant Training, Age Limit & Citizenship:
- Bachelor's degree preferably in Business, Economics, International Studies, Law and Marketing. (*Master's Degree is an advantage*)
- At least 25 years old and not more than 35 years of age upon appointment by the President of the Philippines
- Filipino Citizen with unimpaired integrity
- Preferably a Civil Service Professional Eligible or Board Passer of any related Philippine Licensure Examination (e.g. Bar, Accountancy, Engineering etc)
- Eight (8) hours relevant training

Experience and Skills:
- At least four (4) years commercial & supervisory experience in marketing, banking and finance, economics
- Excellent communication and presentation skill both written and oral
- Fluency in English and preferably other major foreign languages
- Highly developed IT skills

Knowledge of:
- Current international and local economic issues and business developments
- Trade and investment policies
- Export and investment marketing
- Business counseling
- Market research methodologies

Ability to:
- Recognize and identify entrepreneurial opportunities/prospects
- Market the Philippines as a viable source of products and services and as an investment location for international businesses
- Think analytically and exercise judgment
- Understand and respond strategically to the complexities inherent in the job
- Manage workload under a small office environment but to imbibe strong "esprit de corps"
- Create a good impression, command attention and respect and show an air of confidence
- Be a teamplayer yet able to work independently

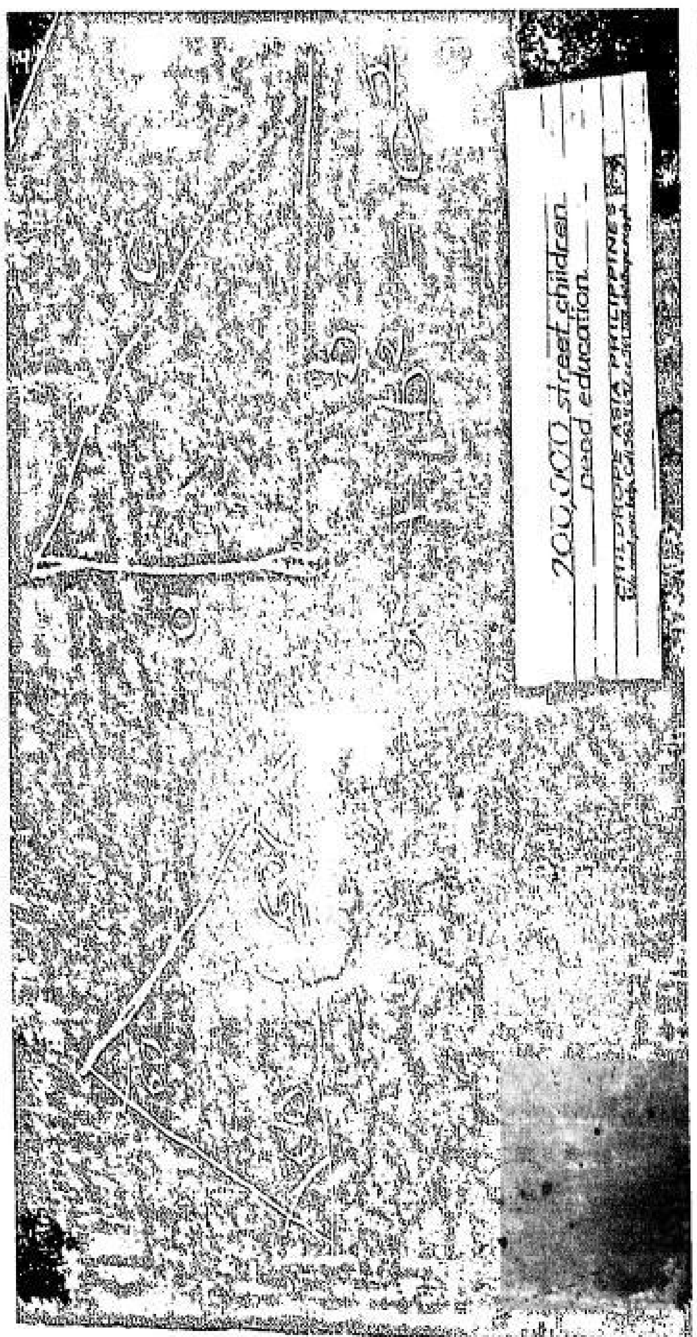
Secure application forms from:
Human Resource Development Service
6/F Trade & Industry Building,
361 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

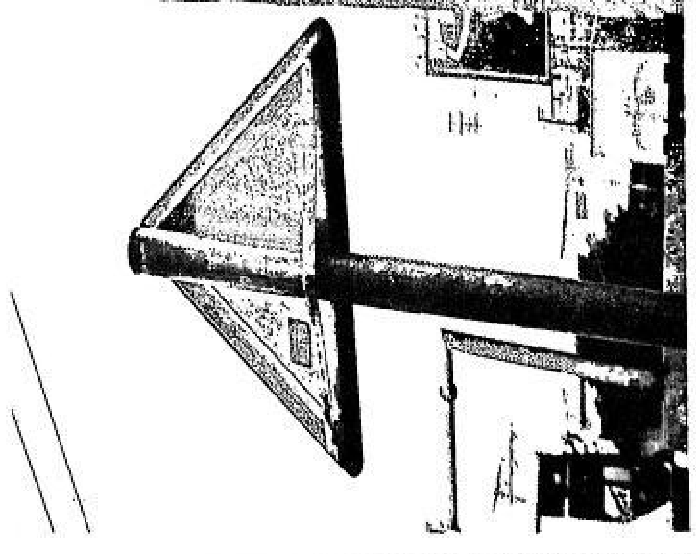
Or
Visit www.business.gov.ph
for downloadable forms

Applications sent through regular mail or e-mail should be received by HRDS on
09 February 2007, 5:00 p.m.

Applications received after February 9 will not be accepted, unless posted before February 9.

Submit application to:
The Assistant Secretary
Human Resource Development Service
6/F Trade & Industry Building,
361 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
E-mail: hrds@dti.gov.ph





200,000 street children
Dead education

PHOTOS documenting the preparations of 28 participating landscaping businesses in Cordillera and La Union vying for the best cordillera landscape design in the 11th Panagbenga's Landscape Competition at Skating Rink, Burnham Park, Baguio City. PHOTOS BY EV ESPIRITU

Art and money mix at Panagbenga's landscaping tilt

WORKERS take break from the preparations.

By Maurice Malanes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

BAGUIO CITY—ROSE CUILAN, 56, used to only tend and sell flowers. But her anthuriums, orchids, cacti, euphorbia and other indoor and outdoor plants eventually opened other opportunities.

A promising break for Cuilan came when she joined a landscaping competition in 1997, a feature of the Panagbenga or Baguio Flower Festival that has become an annual tradition since 1996.

During the first festival, she sold flowers and noted how others did their landscape entries at the grounds of the Camp John Hay.

She then realized that flowers and other plants were actually the soul of any landscape.

"With my anthuriums, orchids and other ornamentals, I [thought] can also do landscapes," she says.

She decided to mobilize a neighborhood women's club in her village of Loakan and joined the 1997 landscaping open category competition. To her surprise, she and her peers, all flower growers, garnered the third prize.

She has since joined every landscaping tilt thereafter, winning almost every year. Cuilan, at one point, received the grand prize.

"I don't even remember how many trophies I took home," says the mother of six.

Opportunities

The P50,000 grand cash prize was just, if not barely, enough to pay for the cost of materials for the landscape.

But the bigger incentive in participating in the landscape competition lies in offers for landscaping contracts from potential clients.

CORDILLERA category involves traces of indigenous art.

After Cuilan won the top prize for the Cordillera landscape category in 1999, for example, two government officials asked her to do the landscape of their compounds in the city. She says she was able to clinch a P400,000 contract to landscape the grounds of the house of one official.

Not only clients from Baguio City but from as far as Tagaytay City and Laguna also offered her landscaping contracts.

"These offers prompted me to order business cards, which I can give out to potential clients," says Cuilan, president of the Panagbenga Landscapers Society.

Her business card contains all her varied businesses—ornamental plants, landscaping, flower arrangement and "plants for hire."

The month-long flower festival, which started on Thursday, has become an opportunity for Cuilan to exhibit the various flowers and ornamentals she and her husband raise in a 2,000-square meter greenhouse.

"This yearly festival has enabled us to discover market outlets for our flowers in Metro Manila as we meet people," she says.

She says the most highly priced flowers are white anthuriums, which sell as high as P300 a dozen (large size) during All Saints' Day and between P150 and P200 a dozen during regular days.

Art expressions

As early as the last week of January, Vicky de Guzman, 46, began supervising a landscape entry, which fuses Japanese, Western, Spanish and Filipino motifs and designs.

Bamboo, old Spanish capiz windows from demolished old houses in Vigan, antique hardwood, abaca ropes and other scrap wood were among the materials installed as structure and backdrop of De Guzman's landscape entry, which included a Japanese-inspired waterfall and wishing well.

De Guzman and her workers were able to arrange into an emerging harmonious design various raw materials, some of which other people would have thrown away.

Who would have thought, for example, that an abandoned wooden post for electric cables would form part of De Guzman's entry?

"My artisans and I all learned and continue to learn from experience," says De Guzman, who is also a flower seller like Cuilan.

"We also learn by noting other landscape designs when we travel. The rest is instinct and creativity," she says.

Among De Guzman's workers is nine-year-old Moises Gipa Jr., who was mixing cement and helping plaster it on a structural post when the INQUIRER visited the site at Burnham Park on Jan. 27.

"He has been helping in our landscaping work ever since he was three years old," says De Guzman.

She says Gipa, now in Grade 3, is the son of her business partner and holds promise as a future artist.

De Guzman and Cuilan are among 28 participants of this year's landscaping competition at an idle 50-meter-diameter oval and fiber glass-roofed skating rink at Burnham Park.

De Guzman joins 17 others in the open category while Cuilan joins nine others in the Cordillera category.

The Cordillera category involves landscapes with traces of Cordillera indigenous art such as Igorot huts and stone terraces. The rest are under the open category.

A veteran since the 1996 Panagbenga, De Guzman had also won prizes under the open category.

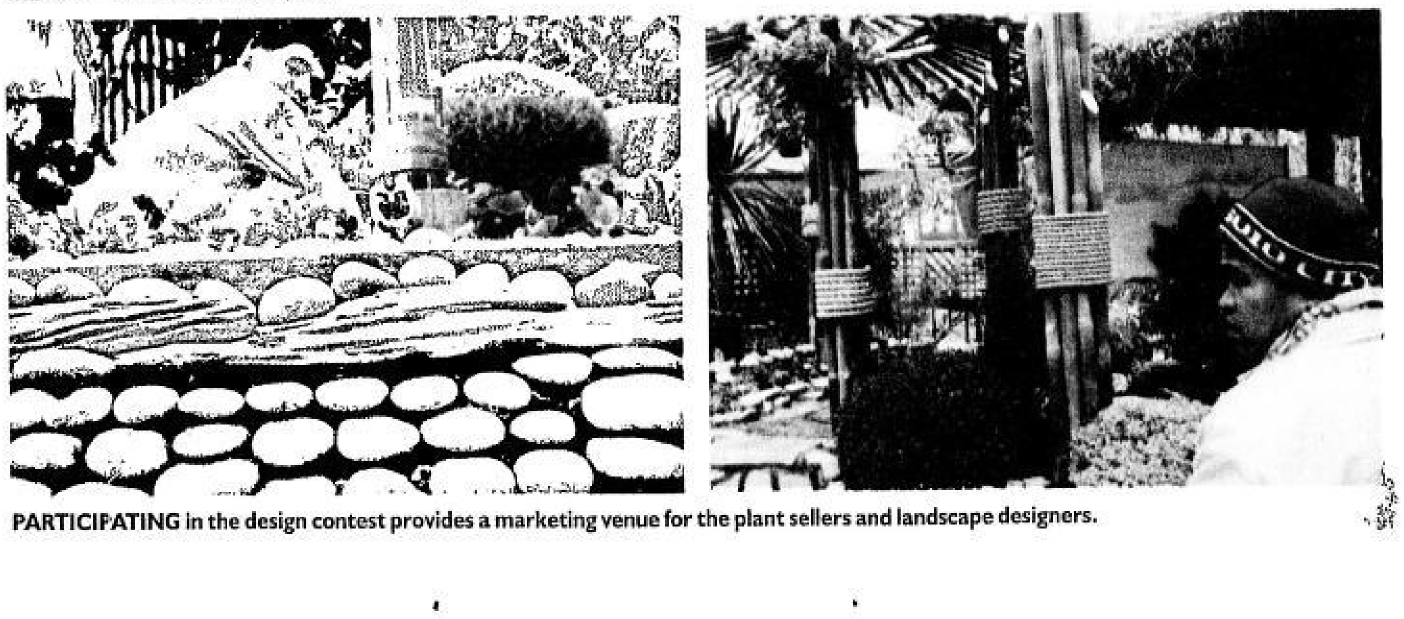
"Win or lose, this competition always opens doors of opportunities for us," she says.

The 28 landscape entries would occupy the outer circle of the oval skating rink at Burnham Park.

But an inner circle would become a "carpet of flowers" of various colors and shapes, says lawyer Damaso Bangaoet Jr., festival coordinator and Panagbenga founder.

An oval center stage, which volunteers repaired and repainted, will also feature live concerts, he says.

The flowers, the landscapes and the music will all give an ambience, which, Bangaoet hopes, will help keep alive the spirit of the Panagbenga tradition, which he helped sow 11 years ago when the city was still raring to recover from the devastation of the July 1990 earthquake.



PARTICIPATING in the design contest provides a marketing venue for the plant sellers and landscape designers.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2007
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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
sms feedback: Inquirer life name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

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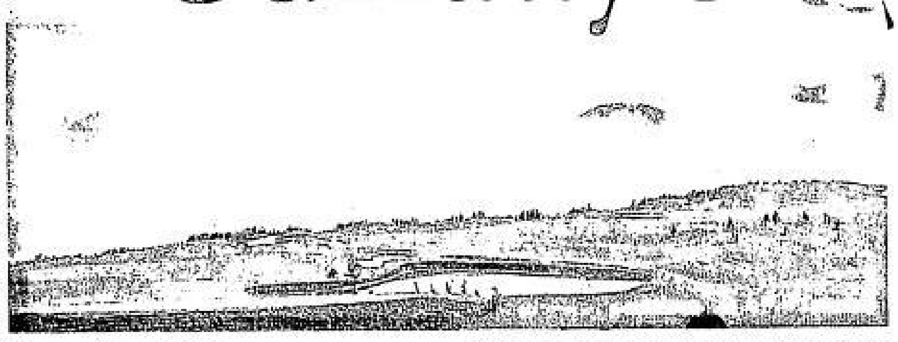
Sunday sizzlers



Tagaytay high

Have you ever had to take foreign guests sightseeing on short notice? And were you stumped as to where to take them? If you were, shame on you! Surely, you've heard of Tagaytay Highlands?

You drive down Aguinaldo Highway in Cavite and end up facing one of the most beautiful vistas in the world—the lake of Taal with the world's tiniest volcano floating in the mist and midst of it.

You turn left and follow the Tagaytay-Calamba road until you get to a sign that says The Highlands. It's an exclusive membership recreation and residential community so if you're not a member, do all in your power to befriend a member because it will be all worth it.

There is a turn within this resort that presents the lake and volcano on one side and the mysterious mountain of Makiling on the other and it just takes your breath away. It's all you need to believe that God indeed is in the details of His creations.

Soap opera

?

Though this former politician is now projecting himself as God's gift to the disadvantaged, people who know his ex-wife say she is the real saint. Not only was she put upon when she was married to him but to this day he still takes advantage of her generosity and gentle nature.

Recently, he reportedly ordered a million pesos worth of her handmade organic products supposedly for distribution to the less fortunate. She could not say no to the father of her children. Apparently he did not have the same regard for their history. He wanted to take the goods without having to pay for them.

The poor woman is now left with an inventory that she is having difficulty selling. Worse, her suppliers of raw materials are demanding payment.

'Family' feud

Is this the way to treat a *kapamilya*?

The buzz in the entertainment media these days is the sudden and seemingly arbitrary dismissal of **Leah Salterio** and **Peachy Guioguio**, two of ABS-CBN's PR executives.

Reports have it that VP for media and government relations **Maloli Espinosa-Manalastas** axed the two on the last day of her terminal leave and just hours after hosting a "farewell" lunch for the entertainment media.

Manalastas had earlier tendered her resignation to run for a congressional seat in Masbate. Did she not want her two subordinates, whom she recruited herself, to stay a minute longer without her? Apparently, yes, because she gave them the boot at around 4 p.m. and instructed the two to gather all their personal belongings and leave the Kapamilya network's building by 6 p.m. No ifs, no buts, no explanations.

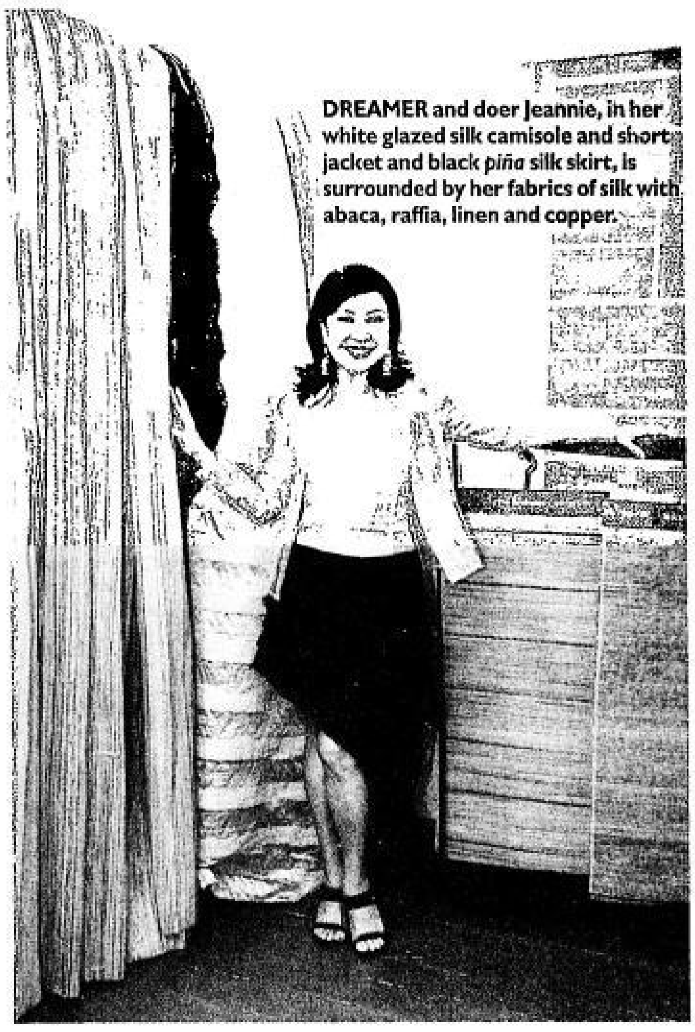
Smart move

It is becoming a Smart tradition to partner with **Francis Lumen** in bringing in top international performers to entertain their most loyal clients as well as others who do not mind paying tickets to a really good show.

Most recently, Il Divo sent tremors around the Philippine International Convention Center with their pop opera repertoire. The fab four attracted a good mix of Philippine society's who's who. **Imelda Cojuangco**, for a while out of circulation because of ill health, looked radiant in the audience. Taipan **Henry Sy** and family were there. Former Smart executive Boy Martirez and his two daughters had front row seats.

SUNDAY/ C3

IL Divo



DREAMER and doer Jeannie, in her white glazed silk camisole and short jacket and black *piña* silk skirt, is surrounded by her fabrics of silk with abaca, raffia, linen and copper.

Jean Goulbourn in her silk cocoon

STORY ON PAGE C2

"Sana perfect match kami ni love sa lahat ng bagay."

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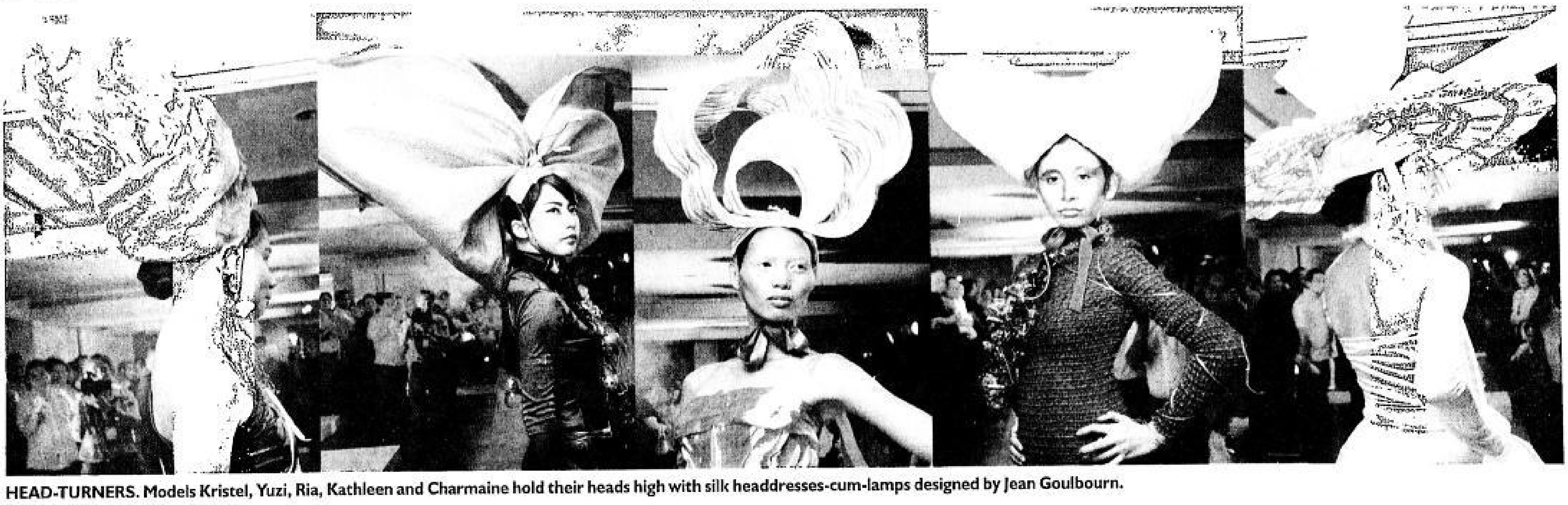
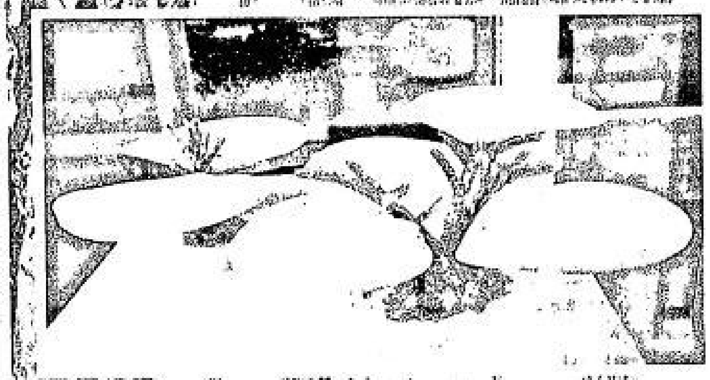
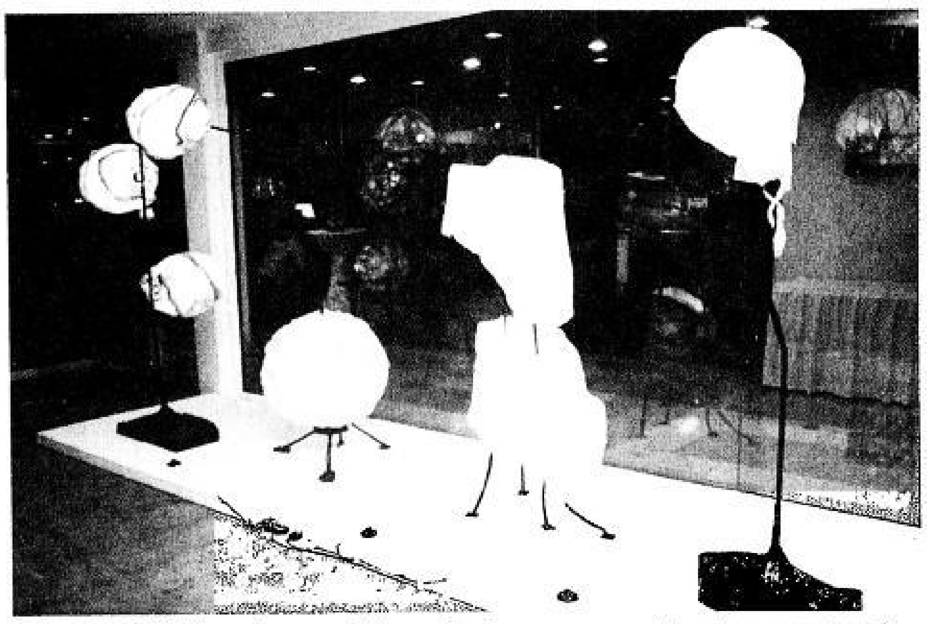


HEAD-TURNERS. Models Kristel, Yuzi, Ria, Kathleen and Charmaine hold their heads high with silk headdresses-cum-lamps designed by Jean Goulbourn.



MOTHER-OF-PEARL multilayered tray (above) and other home accessories (left) are accented with silver-plated coral. All available at Goulbourn Silk Cocoon showroom in LRI building. RODEL ROTONI

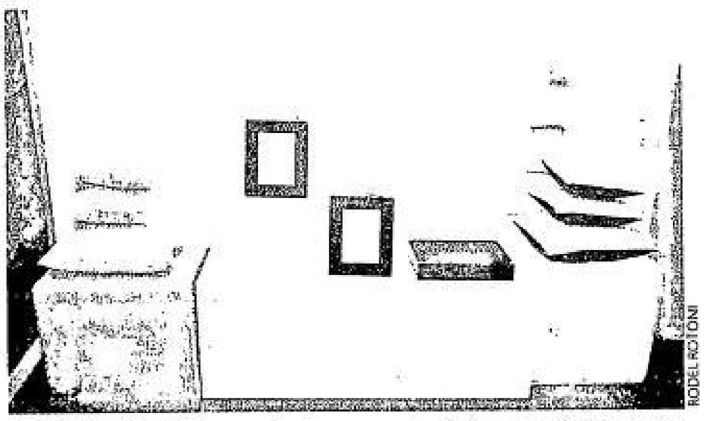


OLD AND NEW. The ancient art of silk-weaving keeps company with contemporary trends in these floor lamps designed by Yvonne Quisumbing.

A home in silk cocoon

RODEL ROTONI

ARTIST Impy Pilapil's vignette of tableware inspired by Dr. Seuss' "The Lorax" RODEL ROTONI



RODEL ROTONI

DOUBLE-PLY silk Roman shades serve as backdrop for display of piña silk throw pillows and leather frames at Goulbourn's showroom.

By Chelo Banal-Formoso

ALL THOSE WHO THOUGHT JEAN Goulbourn was just being a dreamer when she said she was going to dress up our homes one day with her Silk Cocoon fabrics better believe in her now.

It took 11 years but Goulbourn's lifestyle showroom opened recently at the LRI building on Nicanor Garcia (formerly Reposo) street in Makati.

This is where the local fans of Jeannie's silk creations can buy her fabulous and luxurious textiles to use for drapery, Roman shades, lampshades, wall covering, throw pillows and other accessories for their homes.

Silk Cocoon's textiles for the home used to be for export only because high production costs did not make it viable for the company to retail the products locally.

Although local fashionistas acknowledge Goulbourn's genius as a made-to-order and ready-to-wear fashion designer, only a handful of Filipino architects and interior designers have been privy to Silk Cocoon's secret stash of incandescent and inspiring fabrics for the home.

Conrad Onglao and Ramon Antonio have used her fabrics for the homes of a few clients. Ed Calma had an art piece made of Goulbourn's material. Interior and furniture designer Budji Layug chose Silk Cocoon for his showrooms and houses abroad, as did Manny Samson for hotel lobbies.

"All this time, I've looked forward to offering clients who have been buying clothes from us what we've been supplying foreigners," says the determined Goulbourn.

It has been her frustration that Filipinos "end up buying my stuff in San Francisco" because certain distributors there had purchased Silk Cocoon material from in bulk and redistributed it in the US under their own brands.

Now on retail in Goulbourn's new showroom are her high-end specialty handwoven textiles made of silk in its many enchanting reincarnations—abaca silk, linen silk, piña silk, raffia silk and the rather high-tech liquid copper silk.

With textures ranging from supple to structured, the fabrics are thankfully no longer exclusively sold to suites, boutique hotels, spas and high-end resorts abroad but are being retailed locally now for use in the most elegant of homes. Silk Cocoon fabrics for drapery have a width of 120 inches. Length is to customer specification or, as Goulbourn likes to say, "to infinity."

Sourcing suppliers for her showroom has kept Goulbourn busy. She found the most creative ones in Cebu and, as expected, they were only interested in exporting. "One was supplying accessories to Louis Vuitton, Dolce & Gabbana and Ferragamo. He is also the source of Armani Casa boxes," says Jeannie, who convinced the man to make his products available to local buyers. "If foreigners can enjoy our products," she said to him, "why not our own people?

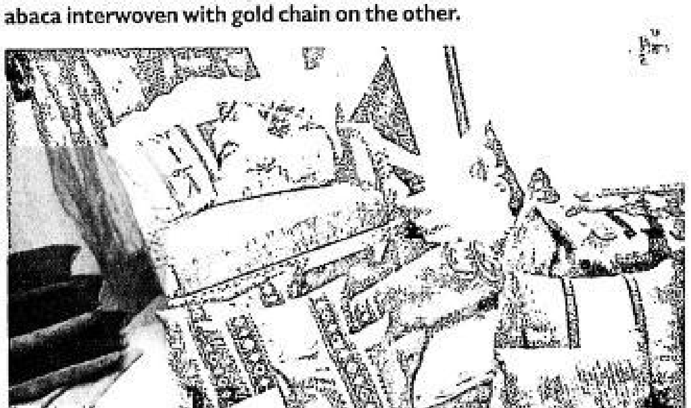
For the store opening, Goulbourn asked her designer friends Tessa Prieto-Valdes, Chito Vijandre with Firma partner Ricky Toledo and Miguel Rosales as well as artist Impy Pilapil to create home accessories using Silk Cocoon fabrics.

At the opening of the showroom, a mini-show of clothes and barongs highlighted Goulbourn's woven gems. But most interesting were the cleverly crafted headdresses the female models wore. They were actually lamps. And mind you, they were lit, which meant that after the show, had you been able to snag one of these conversation pieces, you could have brought home a beautiful and functional lighting accessory.

Goulbourn says she wants to invite more artists to design more lampshades using her woven materials. That should be no problem.

For more information, call the Silk Cocoon lifestyle showroom at 8972217.

"MIRROR, Mirror" vignette by Firma's Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo showcases throw pillows using abaca silk on one side and silk abaca interwoven with gold chain on the other.



BEADED and embroidered throw pillows made of Goulbourn's piña silk and linen silk fabrics

VIGNETTE on display at LRI building showing off Silk Cocoon's liquid copper fabric, which combines silk with strands of copper but moves like water or oil RODEL ROTONI

HANDSOME frontage of Goulbourn's new home fabrics and accessories showroom

BOLLYWOOD vignette by Tessa Prieto-Valdes using Silk Cocoon sheer copper and silk fabric called Fire for canopy RODEL ROTONI

Sunday . . .

From page C1

Cabinet secretaries and their (we hope) wives were there. Even the President, who arrived rather late and with grandchild in tow.

The biggest surprise to many? That **Jaime Zobel** with wife **Bea** and their son **Fernando** with wife **Kitkat** showed up in this Smart-sponsored musical event. But why not? It was a smart decision. After all, there are only a few quartets in the globe who can equal the vocal powers of Il Divo.

Loaded and branded

? Ever body-conscious, this woman was so upset at not being informed her afternoon yoga class had been canceled, she went shopping at Greenbelt 4. "You better sell me something while I'm angry," she told the store manager, who happened to be a whiz and managed to sell her a P300,000 bag.

If every woman could afford to let off steam that way, there would be fewer annulments and the economy of this nation would be so robust it would need a liposuction, something which this diva of conspicuous consumption knows a lot about.

Who let the dog out?

It used to be that we feared only bag and cellphone snatchers. Now beware of "dog-nappers." Your beloved pooch could be the next victim.

A 10-month-old pug named Keanna was snatched away from her guardian during their regular walk on Anonas Street, QC, on the evening of Jan. 13.

KEANNA the pug...

AN AFGHAN girl practices juggling with bowling pins. AP

Unlike stolen cell phones and other material possessions that are replaceable, however, the same can't be said of a lost beloved pet.

A P10,000 reward is offered to anyone who can reunite Keanna with her owners. Identifying marks include paintbrush-like cluster of eyelashes on the outer corner of her left eye. Call 0917-8736701 or 0917-9120522 for any leads.

Forget the war, join the circus!

In Kabul, Afghanistan, a place torn apart by war, misery is banned from a little school where girls and boys learn how to juggle, ride unicycles, sing and, best of all, laugh. The 3Rs are mixed with art and acrobatics at the Mobile Mini Circus for Children, which was started by Danish performance artist David Mason in 2002 just months after the fall of the Taliban.

According to reports, visitors with guns are not allowed into the school, foreign soldiers and locals with armed bodyguards included. Also—and this is the real test—their donations are not accepted, even though the school survives on donations and does not charge the students.

Teachers and children also put on circus shows around Afghanistan, teaching other kids about land-mine awareness and malaria prevention.

Int'l recognition for Pasig school

ON A RECENT VISIT TO SECond Mom in Pasig City, Dean Harris of the International Baccalaureate Organization commended the school's overall performance in terms of fulfilling the standards of a globally competitive learning institution.

The IBO is a nonprofit, international educational accrediting body that works with 1,922 schools in 124 countries around the world. It offers three programs of international education for students aged 3-19 years. Presently, there are only four IBO-accredited schools in the country: International School Manila, Brent International School, British School of Manila and the Beacon School.

Harris, in a conversation with Second Mom owner and directress Jenny Banal, said that the school's teaching methods, policies, programs and facilities merit immediate authorization as an International Baccalaureate World School. As a result, Harris expressed his willingness to recommend the school's immediate authorization as an IB World School for its primary years program for children 3-12 years old before the IBO Board.

The Department of Education has given Second Mom the green light to formally operate its grade school department starting June 2007, a clear indication of the level of competitiveness the school has established over the past six years. The grade school department, known as Domuschola Internationalis, was launched last June with a pilot class of first graders. The full-fledged primary school will open its doors this coming school year.

Banal welcomed both developments as a sign that Second Mom is indeed moving forward in helping children grow and furthering the quality of education in the country.

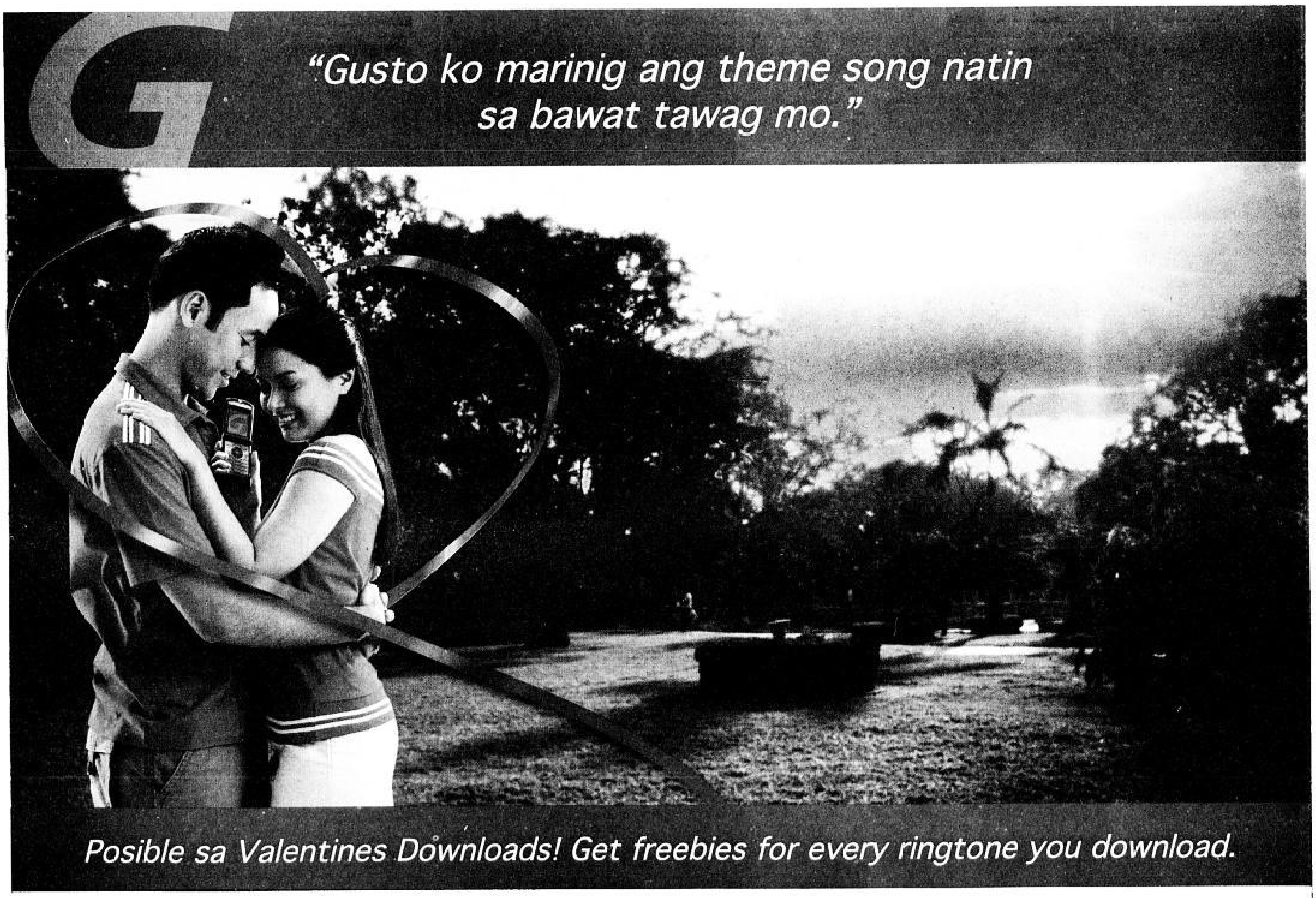
By turning itself from a preschool to a world-renowned institution of primary learning in a short span of time, Second Mom is redefining child education by setting a new benchmark in the very field that the school has come to cherish and devote itself to.

Banal is a member of the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) and the school is likewise a member of the International Schools Association (ISA).

Second Mom Child Care Preschool and Domuschola Internationalis are located at Dormitory I Philsports Complex (formerly Ultra) Ugong, Pasig City (beside Brent School) with tels. 6352002, 6359743, 4826250; and e-mail addresses secon_dmom2000@yahoo.com and domuschola2006@yahoo.com

DEAN Harris of the International Baccalaureate Organization visits with students of Second Mom school in Pasig for accreditation as an IBO world school.

DOMUSCHOLA • INTERNATIONALIS •
MMVI
MAKING THE GRADE. Education undersecretary Antonio Inocentes, on behalf of Secretary Jesli Lapus, joins Second Mom founder Jennie Banal at the formal launching of the school's grade school department, known as Domuschola Internationalis.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Opo, ang lakas mo sa Globe

Promo period from Jan. 30 to Apr. 29, 2007. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0343, Series of 2007.

JEWELRY designer and artist Jing Turalba with kids Juha and Arianna

"AMAZING Race" family Ernie and Jeena Lopez with twins Isis and Sabrina, and Blade

AD AND promo manager for Ayala Malls Group Sandy Espinosa; Greenbelt operations manager AC Ocampo; Jun Escario; and division manager of Ayala Malls Group Cathy Bengzon

Shopping and art as therapy

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

RETAIL THERAPY SEEMS TO be the all-around cure for the stress and pressure of city living. Regardless of shopping values, the mere act of purchasing is quite beneficial to calming the nerves. (Receiving the credit card bills at the end of the month is a different story altogether.)

Take grocery shopping. It can be totally anti-stressing to just cruise a brightly lit supermarket aisle and check out the latest healthful cereals or sinful junk foods. Even with a grocery list at hand, quick detours to the forbidden aisles of flavorsome cookies, frozen delights and candies are a pleasant enough task.

At the ongoing Canadian Food Festival at Metro Market! Market! in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, there is a month-long promotion of Canada's popular brands like President's Choice, Compliments, Sunfrie, Jolly Canned Soup, No Name and ItalPasta at the grocery of Metro Gaisano. Metro Ayala Cebu is also celebrating this festival.

Canadian Ambassador **Peter Sutherland** graced both the Taguig and Cebu openings in full support of this festival. He annually promotes his native land's products. Last year, in fact, he introduced me to Canadian Ice Wine, made from grapes plucked frozen and made into wine. It has a distinctive fruity flavor and is a perfect dessert wine.

> Stress can kill, so do everything in moderation, except for acts of love and charity

Winning a raffle can also be an instant happy pill! Exciting prizes are at stake at the Canadian Food Festival, with two round-trip tickets to Vancouver, Canada via Cathay Pacific Airways. One winner will be drawn from Metro Market! Market! and another from Metro Ayala. This event is sponsored by the Canadian food producers, the Canadian Trade Commission and Cathay Pacific Airways.

Fashionable address

There is so much to look forward to on the shopping horizon, with the soon-to-be opening of hip retail's most fashionable address, Greenbelt 5. For the last couple of weeks, there have been exclusive previews of its upcoming shops, like that of fave jewelry designer **Arnel Papa** (tel. 0917-8571092) and Cebu's Prince of Couture **Jun Escario** (tel. 0920-9105541). This coming Wednesday, the collection of **Ana Rocha** will be featured at the Greenbelt 3 lobby right in front of Firma Makati.

At Arnel's exhibit, fashionistas milled around his signature chunky pieces encrusted with semi-precious stones. His resort setup with artful, iron displays made the collection really impressive and made it difficult to choose favorites. As an Accessory Queen, I feel my Arnel pieces are all winners and will surely be part of my jewelry collection to be passed down to my girls. I just hope they would both love fancy faux jewelry as much as I do.

If I were to win shopping money from any store in Greenbelt, it would be spent at Firma. Over the holidays, this lifestyle shop owned by **Chito Vijandre** and **Ricky Toledo** had the most beautiful window display of rich tapestry, elegant crystals and exquisite ornaments. I was one of the judges at the annual Ayala Malls Display Awards and Firma definitely got my winning vote.

Not all shopping is mall-based. Blossoming on its own is the LRI Business Plaza at 210 Nicanor Garcia St. (formerly Reposo), Bel-Air 2, Makati. For its third anniversary, this one-stop lifestyle center hosted a multi-artistic event with a fashion-forward show featuring fabrics and designs by **Jeannie Goulbourn**, several arts exhibits and even a book launch of **George Sison**'s "Feng Shui of the Mind, I am a Winner!"

Entering LRI, one can already sense the creative energies flowing among its many different furniture and lighting stores and art galleries. As I headed for Goulbourn Silk Cocoon, I quickly passed by the quaint, bursting-with-decor shop of **Ito Kish**.

Filled with several stunning pieces from all over the world, Ito's exquisite taste has found lovely pieces that will surely enhance any interior.

Silk Cocoon has added another retail address where clients can order specially fabricated material for the home. Three vignettes showcasing the fabrics are displayed including an Indian-inspired creation I made. A must-see fabric-woven piece by **Impy Pilapil** also stands at the shop's entrance.

Interesting exhibit

The art scene is just as alive for retail therapy. Buying a painting brings a smile to any purchaser's lips. An interesting exhibit of painted women at the LRI Plaza by **Ernie Garcia**, titled "Women in Fiberglass," is ongoing.

After exchanging a few words with the artist, I realized his former profession as a bold actor is even more interesting! I guess Ernie continues to charm the ladies, but this time with his brushes.

Across the street at Alliance Française de Manille, Bicol artists headed by abstract master **Gus Albor** are having a group exhibit called "Santiguar: Saint, Water and a Volcano." The exhibit, running until Feb. 17, is for the benefit of Cebika, Center for Bikol Arts Foundation.

Generous Gus was one of the artists who donated pieces for the Assumption Mission Schools. I am forever grateful to him.

Over at SM Megamall, art transforms into playful, stylized clown impressions in oil and pastel. The Crucible Gallery presents "Clowns in Our Midst" by **Egai Fernandez**, an amiable artist and longtime friend. Our artistic worlds crossed more than a decade ago when the first artwork my husband and I bought the year we married was by Egai. Coincidentally, the piece was also a clown painting in oil.

The Power Plant Mall at Rockwell also has its own art exhibit with "Exploits on the Dining Table" paintings by **Jing Turalba**. Jewelry designer and artist Jing will have her acrylic on Masonite paintings on show until Feb. 10.

Different from her favorite underwater world impressions, these are colorful, semi-abstract designs with artsy human forms.

As the very auspicious Year of the Dog comes to a close, we should already gear up for a challenging but productive Year of the Boar. Remember, stress can kill, so do everything in moderation, except for acts of love and charity, which can always be done in excess.

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

SILK Cocoon guests Marit Yuchengco, Mia Borromeo, Rupert Jacinto and Frances Lim

CRUCIBLE Gallery featured artist Egai Fernandez and writer wife Nena

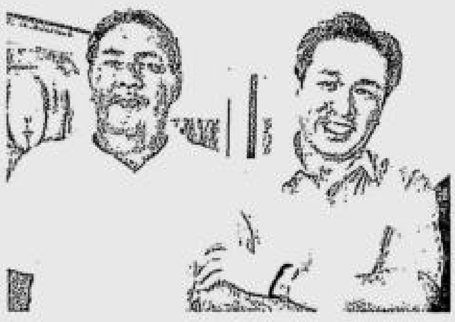
FAVORITE jewelry designer Arnel Papa and Rajo Laurel

GORGEOUS couple Katrina and Chris Feist

FAB shop designer Ito Kish with Preview's Pauline Suaco-Juan

HAPPY shoppers Juan Miguel Ongsiako, Leica Carpo, Emi and Ram Jorge, sculptor Ovvian Castrillo, and designer Miguel Rosales

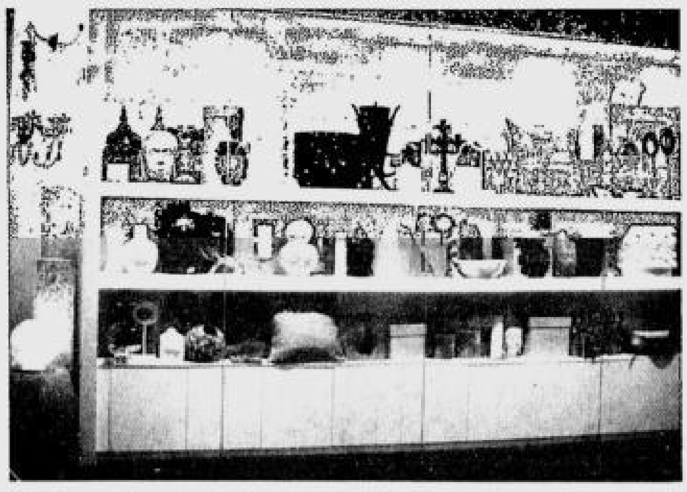
ACTIVE Group's Toti Turalba, Rosan Cruz, Pinky Amador and Roca Cruz

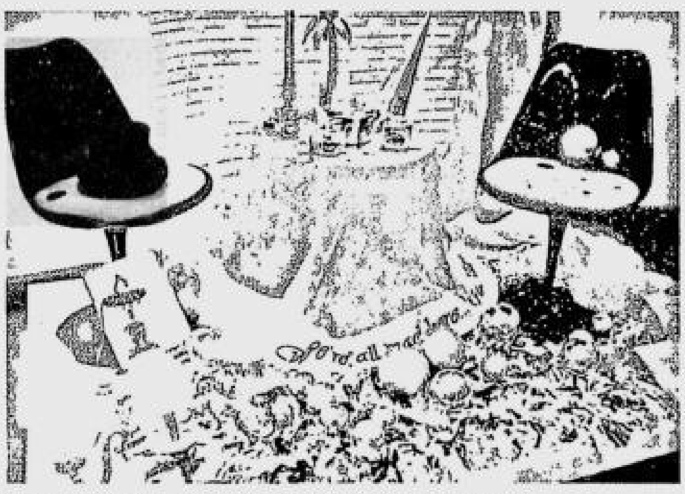

PAINTER Raul Piedra and Crucible owner Sari Ortiga

ROOM Upstairs featured artist Sim de Pio and owners Pia and Ari Peralta

SILK Cocoon's Jeannie Goulbourn and Frances wear unique hats by Nap Tobias.

ACTOR and painter Ernie Garcia


GREAT finds from Ito Kish


VIGNETTE at Silk Cocoon by designer Miguel Rosales

METRO Gaisano's Jack Gaisano, Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland, Ruth Zeisler and Stewart Hall

THE PUGGIES. Pug parents show off their precious cupcakes.

HEAVYWEIGHTS. English bulldogs Sassy, Malone and Cooper

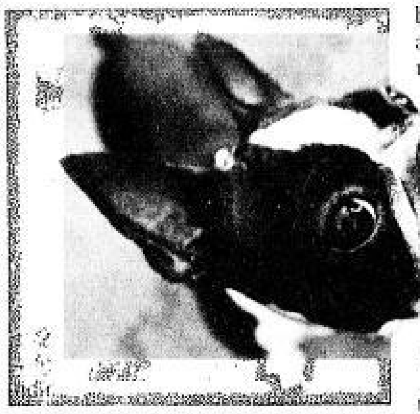
Doggone party

From page C6

stray or not, in the Philippines. The volunteers behind Cara and PAWS are composed of people who actually do something about it, selflessly sacrificing their time and, in many instances, personal finances to pursue their cause.

"I have high respect and admiration for Cara and PAWS," Sharon Say said. "My main goal for this party is for it to create a ripple effect, that dog owners who have the capacity to throw a party for their pets would follow suit and have donation booths included in their program."

Guests, especially chosen by the Says for their ability to love and treat their pets like a human being, were only too eager to make donations. Cara raised over P8,000, enough for 16 spay/neuter operations. PAWS, the receiving end of donations in kind, took hours to get a taxi to offer them a ride after the party as it collected a mountain of dog food, collars and leashes, aluminum bowls, disinfectants, office supplies, etc.



CODY, a Boston terrier, gives her best pose for the camera.

First-time invitees to a dog party, both Cara and PAWS were pleasantly surprised to learn that there's something a pet owner can do to their pets and become socially relevant as well.

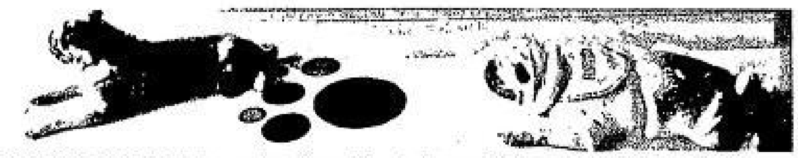
Responsible pet ownership

Another special guest was Joey Tiosayco of www.lovepets.com, who gave a lecture on responsible pet ownership. And for pet owners out there, that includes picking up after your pets when in public.

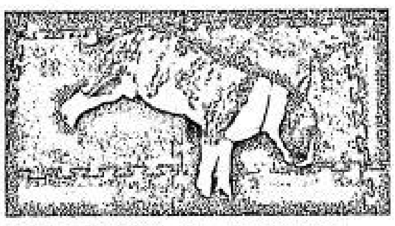
Say said many public establishments, such as Eastwood City and Tiendesitas, have already opened their doors to pets. If everyone can be taught to be responsible enough to look after their friends on a leash in public, it might encourage more malls to welcome pets into their vicinity.

Pooch Park, a dog-care center with grooming and training services, gave free grooming services to pooches who needed some brush-ups or nail trimming. It also gave out colorful doggie bowls as party souvenirs, with happy-birthday greetings printed on them, much to the delight of the guests.

Zibibo Café, owned and operated by the Says, catered the buffet spread, with a section especially made for the four-legged guests. With doggie bowls in hand, pet owners treated their dogs to Beef Aloha, ground beef with sweet yam; Liver Fever, a mix of pork and chicken liver; Bones Gone Wild, assorted bone-shaped dog biscuits; Cheezy Dogs, hotdogs and cheddar cheese; Beanie Babies, a mix of three local beans; and Vegee Wegee, *sayote*, carrots and string beans.



WAITING IN LINE. Paw prints from the staircase all the way to the roof-deck lead guests to the party venue.



DEAD-TIRED. Rocky, a bull terrier, nods off after a heavy snack.

BITE ME. Especially baked cake of peanut butter and carrots for doggies

Say herself baked a doggie birthday cake, made of peanut butter and carrots, so good that even the humans enjoyed it.

Canine entertainment

Like any party, there was entertainment—of the canine kind, of course.

Raymund Lee, co-founder of Friends For Life, an animal-assisted therapy organization, wowed everyone with the impressive performance of his dog Pugslee. A titleholder of the Pedigree Pet Idol Grand Champ in 2005, Pugslee jumped on hoops and sticks, played dead when given the command "Bang!" and even rode the skateboard, refuting the misconception that pugs are, well, a little slow in the head.

Takeaway bone bags for guests included Alpo puppy dog food samples; Shieldguard gift bags with daily and medicated shampoos, soap and flea powder; squeaky toys; and Pet Press newspaper copies.

Raffle prizes included Milk Bone items that Say had brought home from a recent trip to the US, doggie cell phone holders and Cat Paradise toy sets.

The party so far was the biggest one thrown for Say's pets that she fears she might not be able to top it next year. Her goals are clear, though.

"I hope everyone learned a thing or two after this party," Say said. "There are a million ways to help causes. We just have to be aware that there are many opportunities for us to make a difference."

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

Animal lovers to the rescue

EVERY YEAR, HUNDREDS OF dogs and cats are rescued off the streets by animal welfare societies such as Compassion & Responsibility for Animals (Cara) and the Philippine Animal Welfare Society Inc. (PAWS), both nongovernment and nonprofit organizations.

[illegible]

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EN VOGUE. Alfie, a Pomeranian, arrives in style.

LEAP OF FAITH. Performer pug Pugslee doing one of his stunts

SNIP, SNIFF. Smartie gets a makeover.

TONGUE-IN-CHEEK. Pug Abby wins everyone over with her smile.

BASHFUL cocker spaniel Mongkok

A shih tzu, a pug and a bulldog celebrate their birthday, inviting along the whole caboodle to a candid canine carousing

Doggone party

THE CELEBRATORS. Sharon Say with her birthday boys, groomed by celebrity pet stylist Tess Villareal: Cocoa (eldest), Boozer (middle "child") and Philippine Grand Champ 2006 Malone (youngest)

A WINK AND A SMILE. Dart, a Chihuahua, in his big-boy FBI tee

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Lyn Rillon

IT WAS A DOG DAY AFTERNOON as fidos, bowwows, pooches and tail-waggers of all shapes and sizes joined the birthday bash of three of their furry friends. The champs showed off their majestic posture, the toys their irresistible charm and the terriers their boundless energy—all ready for the kill, which was laid on the buffet spread especially prepared for them, that is.

As the critters' human companions took a backseat, the three birthday boys—Cocoa (shih tzu), Boozer (pug) and Malone (bulldog)—welcomed their guests with gusto on their third birthday celebration at the roof-deck of the Parc Royale condominium in Ortigas Center, Pasig.

Squat-faced pugs, who dominated the hullabaloo, scurried about as their owners tailed hopelessly behind them. A dachshund, overwhelmed by the commotion, sat quietly on its owner's lap while a cautious Chihuahua in an FBI tee watched with curiosity as the other dogs began checking, er, sniffing each other out. But the real scene-stealers were the English bullies, their sheer size alone demanding a double-take from onlookers.

DOGGIE buffet spread

While the fete might look like anyone's normal dog's party—with balloons, toys, chow (for both human and canine) and doggie décor all over the place—Sharon and Edwin Say, the happy and proud "parents" of the celebrators, made sure the wingding is not without social relevance.

"We wanted to create animal-care awareness. In lieu of giving gifts to our babies, we encouraged the guests to donate to animal welfare societies instead," Sharon Say said.

And so booths were set up for Compassion & Responsibility for Animals (Cara) and the Philippine Animal Welfare Society Inc. (PAWS), two organizations close to Say's heart. Cara specializes in animal birth control and education, spaying and neutering kittens and puppies. PAWS is better known for its animal rescue operations, re-homing and legal support. *(See related story on page C5.)*

Many people, Say said, only go as far as lending their sympathies to abused animals,

DOGGONE/ C5

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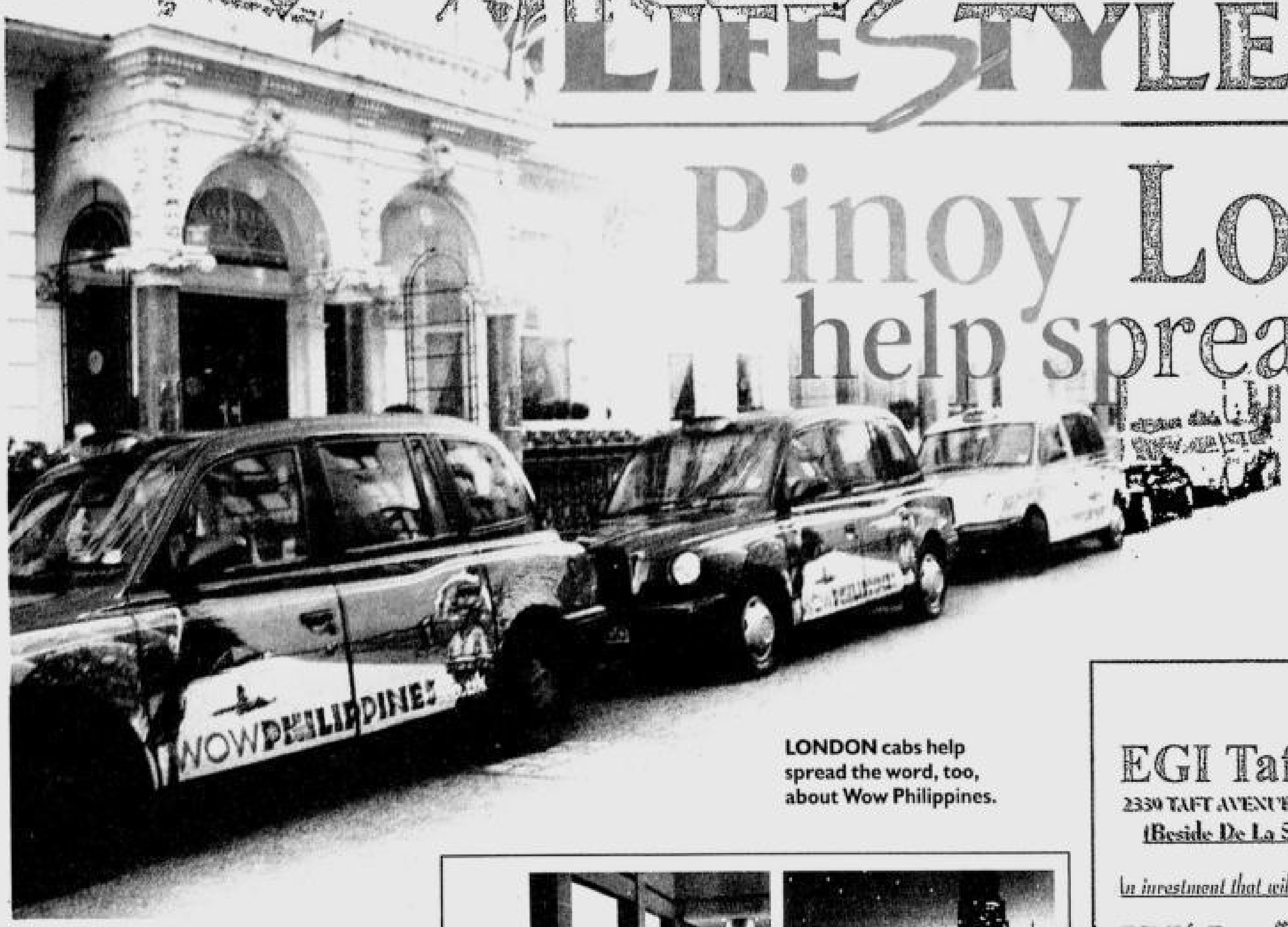
Pinoy Londoners help spread the word



LONDON cabs help spread the word, too, about Wow Philippines.

By Lito B. Zulueta

THERE'S MORE TO PHILIPPINE TOURISM promotion in the United Kingdom than ubiquitous cabs sporting the Wow Philippines logo. That stunt generated so much buzz and so much

PINOY/D2

> Filipino expats in the UK, much liked by Britons for their warm and caring personality, become the country's tourism pitchers

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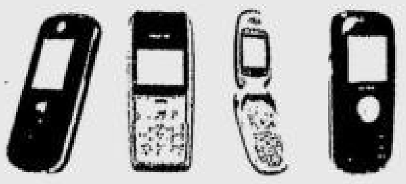

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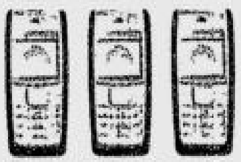

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AMBASSADOR Edgardo Espiritu (center), flanked by Representatives Del De Guzman and Edgar Chatto of the House of Representatives, with Department of Tourism officials and volunteers in front of the Philippine pavilion at the World Tourism Market fair in London

Pinoy Londoners help spread the word

From page D1

interest in the Philippines that not only has the country improved its share of the UK tourism market; its advertising conceit has now been copied by other countries.

Now London cabs also sport tourism promotions by United Arab Emirates, Malaysia and Brunei. If self-critical Filipinos frown on the proverbial Pinoy penchant for aping other innovations, then at least Filipinos could lay claim to a marketing innovation of its own.

But the Department of Tourism prefers to stay a step ahead of the competition. The DOT London Office recently launched Travel Philippines, which seeks to encourage Filipino communities in the UK to promote and sell the Philippines to British travelers.

"The Filipino communities in the UK have become very influential, especially in the medical services," said Tourism Undersecretary Oscar P. Palayab, who recently went to London during the World Tourism Market (WTM) fair to launch the program on behalf of Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano.

"It is time to take stock of our strengths as a community and use it to promote the good name of the country to our British friends, colleagues, neighbors and peers."

Well-liked

Tapping the Filipinos in the UK to promote the Philippines as a tourism prospect means tapping the rather well-known gregarious character of Filipinos that have attracted Britons. Filipinos in the UK are mainly in the health and services sector, and they are known for their affability, hospitality and caring personality.

"In health services, Filipinos are the preference," said Ambassador to the Court of St. James Edgardo Espiritu. "Sixty percent of foreign nurses in England are Pinoys; in Ireland, 90 percent."

And because of marriage with UK nationals, Filipinos are increasing their presence in the UK. "Five to six Filipino babies are born every day," Espiritu said.

Moreover, the number of Filipino students studying in UK schools is increasing. The figure is expected to reach 2,000 this year, and the students are being asked also to help promote the country as a tourism destination. In fact, during the WTM fair, students helped the Philippine tourism officers assist and entertain visitors to the Philippine booth.

"There is a growing respect for Filipinos in the UK for their industry, diligence, hard work and dependability," said DOT London Office head Domingo Enerio III. "Other Filipinos have also made their mark as leaders in business, industry, commerce, education and the arts. We have to take advantage of this goodwill and harness it for the benefit of Philippine tourism."

MARKET SCENE. Philippine travel agencies and tourism promoters do brisk business at the World Tourism Market fair.

The Philippines has increasingly become known in the UK as a key travel destination because of the many natural sites it can offer, the affordability of its services, and the hospitality of the Filipinos.

A British host of a TV diving program has, in fact, proclaimed the Philippines as the best diving destination in the world not only because of its incomparable diving sites but also because of the warmth and friendliness of the Filipinos.

In a survey, 42 percent of UK tourists said they chose the Philippines because of the "warm, friendly people."

The Philippines is likewise known in the UK as a bargain haunt. "The Britons are familiar with Greenhills, would you believe?" said DOT officer Verne Buensuceso, referring to the bazaars in the San Juan shopping center. The familiarity may not be incredible considering Britons' love for shopping as proven by classic London shopping meccas known all over the world such as Harrods.

AMBASSADOR Espiritu welcomes President Macapagal-Arroyo to London during her recent Europe swing.

Buensuceso said the British market is "easy to please." She explained that different activities can be organized under the Travel Philippines program so as to attract UK tourists. The activities may range from simple R&R to wedding, anniversary celebrations and even medical missions.

UK tourists are usually "repeaters." "They come back to the Philippines because they enjoyed their stay during the first time, and when they come back, they bring along others with them," Buensuceso said.

"It should be incumbent upon our *kababayan* here to spread the good word," said Chit Afuang of the DOT London Office. Tourism partners—tourism operators, travel agencies, hotels, resorts and airlines—may coordinate with the London DOT office to fashion attractive packages for Britons and other people from the UK.

Filipinos can get involved in the new program by registering as "marketers." They may get in touch with the London office at www.wowphilippines.co.uk/travel.

Odds

The odds that face Philippine tourism promotion in Europe could be gleaned at the World Tourism Market 2006 in London. The huge exhibits put up by such tourism powerhouses as Italy and Spain showed that the European tourism industry also compete with the world for a slice of its own tourism market.

Spain had separate booths for key Spanish regions such as Sevilla, Andalucia, Leon and Catalunia, and even hosted the launching of a regional newspaper with former Spanish prime minister José Ma. Aznar as guest of honor. With the euro proving stronger than the dollar, and the European Union outpacing the United States in growth and economic vibrancy, the European Union seems to be on track of achieving its vision of a single European market and a singular European formation. The UK, of course, continues to use the pound as its currency, but save for that, it's married to Europe for better or for worse.

Tried and tested

Dwarfed even by the tourism showcases of its neighboring Southeast Asian countries, the Philippines went the tried-and-tested route of small but beautiful-and indigenous. The showcase was a hut with wide capiz windows and tropical palm decor. The showcase basked in golden light, a neat theatrical trick that somehow made the setup glow like the famous Philippine sun.

The front of the hut functioned as a stage where the Bayanihan dancers would periodically perform folk dances. At other times, the front would be a massage parlor for harassed and stressed-out visitors.

The whole showcase radiated warmth and Filipino *bayanihan*, a cohesiveness and cooperativeness that Britons consider as primary Filipino traits.

Close-knit community

The cohesiveness of the Pinoys was shown when some 500 Filipinos packed the Baden Power auditorium to witness the launch of the new tourism program as well as the expanded programming of The Filipino Channel, the highly successful cable television service for overseas Filipinos of ABS-CBN.

Like anything Pinoy, the affair had a ragged fiesta quality to it, with much of the vigor generated by the infectious Pinoy enthusiasm. The Bayanihan dancers and musicians performed with much enthusiasm. Actors Carlos Agassi and Nikki Valdez emceed and sang songs.

Ambassador Espiritu personifies the genteel, urged Filipinos to support the new DOT program. Looking avuncular and folksy, he embodies the warm and caring personality of the Pinoys.

Among the Filpinos working in London, Espiritu has earned good marks for his efficiency, effectiveness, and the ease with which he deals with community concerns, even the seemingly mundane. A banker by profession, he has a *masa* quality easily seen from his straightforward dealings with the Filipinos.

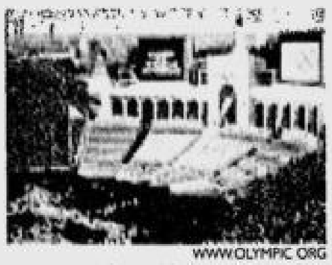
The ambassador said the Filipinos are making their presence felt in the UK in a warm and easy way that somehow contrasts sharply with the negative travel advisories issued by European governments on the Philippines. He said the Filipinos are themselves the country's best ambassadors of goodwill—and good image.

"Tourism is very important for us," Espiritu said. "The challenges are many as we all know. But I think we're moving in the right direction."

WALT Disney Concert Hall, an architectural icon designed by Los Angeles native and living legend Frank Gehry

Los Angeles reborn

By treating the 1984 Olympics as a 'technical' rather than a political issue, LA became the first city in so many decades to reap profits from such a costly event



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Text and photos by Alex Y. Vergara

ALL EYES ARE NOW FOCUSED ON China as it gears up for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Apart from affording it the chance to put its best foot forward, the spectacle is deemed by many as the Middle Kingdom's coming-out party, affirming once and for all its rightful place in the world.

To a certain extent, Los Angeles also found ways to use the Olympics, which it hosted in 1984, to its advantage. Unlike in the case of vibrant Beijing, however, LA, which peaked in the 1950s and '60s, was by then already considered a moribund city.

There couldn't have been more graphic proof that LA was in dire straits than the state of its once-charming downtown area. Pershing Square and its environs, once prime examples of urban planning and old-school architecture, became mere shadows of their former selves and havens for all sorts of shady characters.

LA, more than ever, needed an event like the Olympics to reinvent and give itself a much-needed shot in the arm. The strategy, for all the troubles it entailed, worked. In the years that followed, downtown LA, including its decades-old Art Deco and Beaux Arts structures, underwent a slow but steady gentrification.

In addition, new and equally iconic structures such as the Walt Disney Concert Hall (designed by legendary architect and LA native Frank Gehry), Kodak Theater (the new home of the Oscars), Getty Museum, Getty Villa and the Our Lady of Angels Cathedral rose one after the other to redefine LA's constantly changing skyline.

These downtown attractions, save for the Kodak Theater, Getty Villa and Getty Museum, are within walking distance from one another. Not a few Angelenos credit these developments for eventually luring both locals and tourists to rediscover and reclaim LA from the filthy hands of urban blight.

Turning point

Small wonder that Angelenos today such as Dr. Fernando Guerra, director for the Study of Los Angeles at the Loyola Marymount University, still look back fondly on the Olympics and how the games became a turning point in LA's renewal.

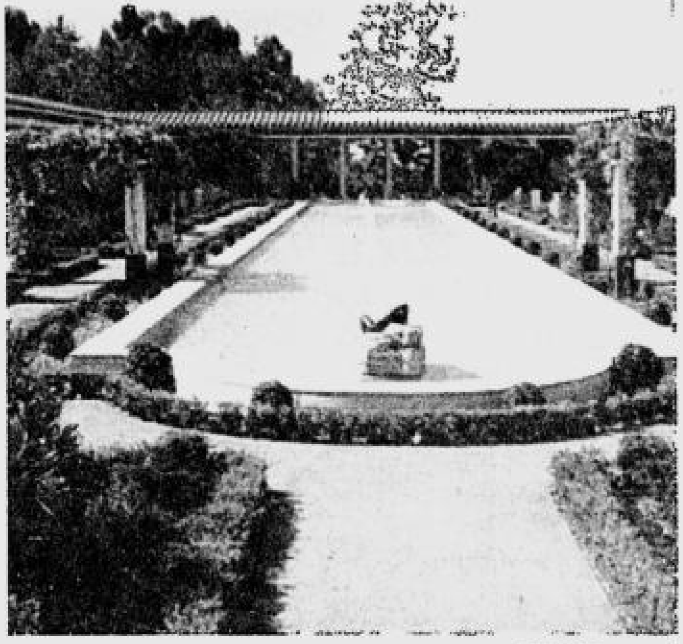
If anything, the success of the 1984 Olympics was a reaffirmation of LA's unique brand of politics, which its founding fathers believed was an ideal antithesis to the old one mired in patronage, nepotism, regionalism and corruption.

"This form of government actually saved the Olympics," said Guerra. "It was the same system LA used to expand, create a port, build an airport and reform its police department in the 1950s."

By treating the Olympics as a "technical" rather than a political issue, LA became the first city in so many decades to reap profits from such a costly event. Before the 1984 games, the franchise had suffered a series of setbacks that began almost 35 years ago in Munich.

To this day, said Guerra, Montreal, which hosted the Olympics in 1976, is still paying off debts it incurred. Four years later, participation in the 1980 Moscow Olympics was an all-time low when the United States and its allies boycotted the games to protest the Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan.

AUTRY Museum, the first of its kind that pays tribute to both real and show-biz cowboys



NEWLY opened Getty Villa in Malibu houses Greek and Roman artifacts.

"At that point, no one else wanted to host the Olympics," he recalled. "LA finally agreed to do the job as long as it did things on its own terms. After initially balking at the idea, the IOC agreed. It had no choice."

In effect, LA virtually rewrote how things were done. Instead of wading directly into the fray like what its predecessors did, the city government, after plunking in "several million dollars," did something unheard of: It assumed no direct political and financial responsibility in the games' outcome.

How did LA manage to pull it off? Since city hall deemed governance to be mainly a public administration issue and not a political one, it hired a private firm engaged in tourism and gave it political and fiscal autonomy to market and stage the show.

Thus, an entity was created just for this purpose. As such, no politician—perhaps not even the mayor—had the chance to meddle needlessly in the hopes of scoring brownie points with the public.

Devoid of politics, the Olympics became a purely business endeavor. The entity did the unprecedented when it monetized every aspect of the event by tapping sponsors and selling TV rights that actually made money for its organizers.

"To this day," said Guerra, "LA still has an endowment of over $200 million generated from the Olympics, which we use to fund different sports events."

Salad days

In a previous article I did on LA, the city's strict adherence to "take out politics from politics" dates back to its salad days when Americans from the East and Midwest immigrated in droves to the West Coast at the turn of the 20th century, marking the start of the so-called "progressive era."

Having turned their backs on traditional politics, these idealists created for themselves a whole new form of government that later became a model for newer US cities, as it provided Angelenos easy access to decent jobs, affordable homes and quality public education.

"LA was really the first US city to combine the best practices of business and administration," said Guerra. "To be able to do that, it had to professionalize its bureaucracy and create an environment where the city would be run like a business."

Mind you, such workings aren't confined to LA per se since the system is replicated in 87 other cities that make up the entire LA County.

Unlike in most other US cities, the powers the LA mayor wields have been radically clipped, leaving him very little room for politicking and its attendant evils. Education, for instance, is run by independent boards, while health and social services are run by each county.

"In LA County alone, there are 95 different school districts and 500 special governments," said Guerra. "This goes back to breaking power from being concentrated in the hands of one man."

ANTONIO Villaraigosa, LA's first Latino mayor in 130 years

Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, LA's first Latino mayor in 130 years, is symbolically still a very important person, but with very limited powers to get things done. He needs to constantly work with a 15-member city council, which wields more power than him should they decide to band together.

For sure, Guerra added, the system has its fair share of disadvantages. (I won't even venture into the thorny issue of homelessness in LA and how big it has become.) For one, it creates a constant need for consensus that can often cause paralysis.

"It creates a need where small sections or small coalitions can, in fact, prevent movements in certain areas," he explained.

It would have been funny had it not generated dire consequences when LA County, for instance, decided several decades ago to stop building freeways and schools in a futile if not foolish attempt to stem the tide of new immigrants. Nice try.

Flawed belief

Thus, LA is now trying to make up for lost time, as existing schools aren't enough to accommodate new entrants. With or without new infrastructure, the city continues to attract immigrants from all over.

The same flawed belief hobbles the construction of a bigger and better airport befitting a city as huge and as important as LA. When it was built in the 1950s, LAX was deemed one of the best gateways in the world. Its inability to keep up with the times, however, has left it, in the words of one outspoken Angeleno, no better than airports found in "former Eastern bloc countries."

"This system is terribly effective in building infrastructure and projects that have tangible targets," Guerra summed up. "But it's completely and totally defective in dealing with issues that go beyond infrastructures such as social ills."

LA's shifting or "borderless" social ills, which no particular city or municipality wants to own up to, are further complicated by present-day realities such as America's demographic shift, a dwindling middle class and deindustrialization —Made in China, Outsourced to the Philippines.

Yet despite the seemingly insurmountable odds LA faces today, Guerra and other like-minded souls continue to remain surprisingly upbeat and optimistic. He has high hopes about the teeming masses of Angelenos themselves, who never seem to run out of ideas to improve their lot.

Despite its storied past, the City of Angels is still a young city by world standards. In many ways, LA is a microcosm of what America is undergoing today. And like most works in progress, it still has ample room to improve and reinvent itself.

The author, together with journalists from China, Japan and New Zealand, participated in the inaugural Los Angeles Sister Cities Fellowship in September 2006.

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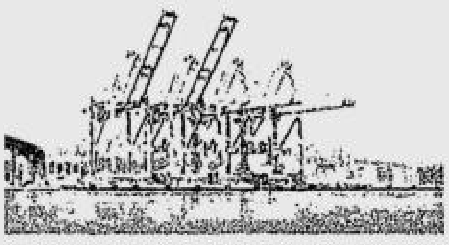

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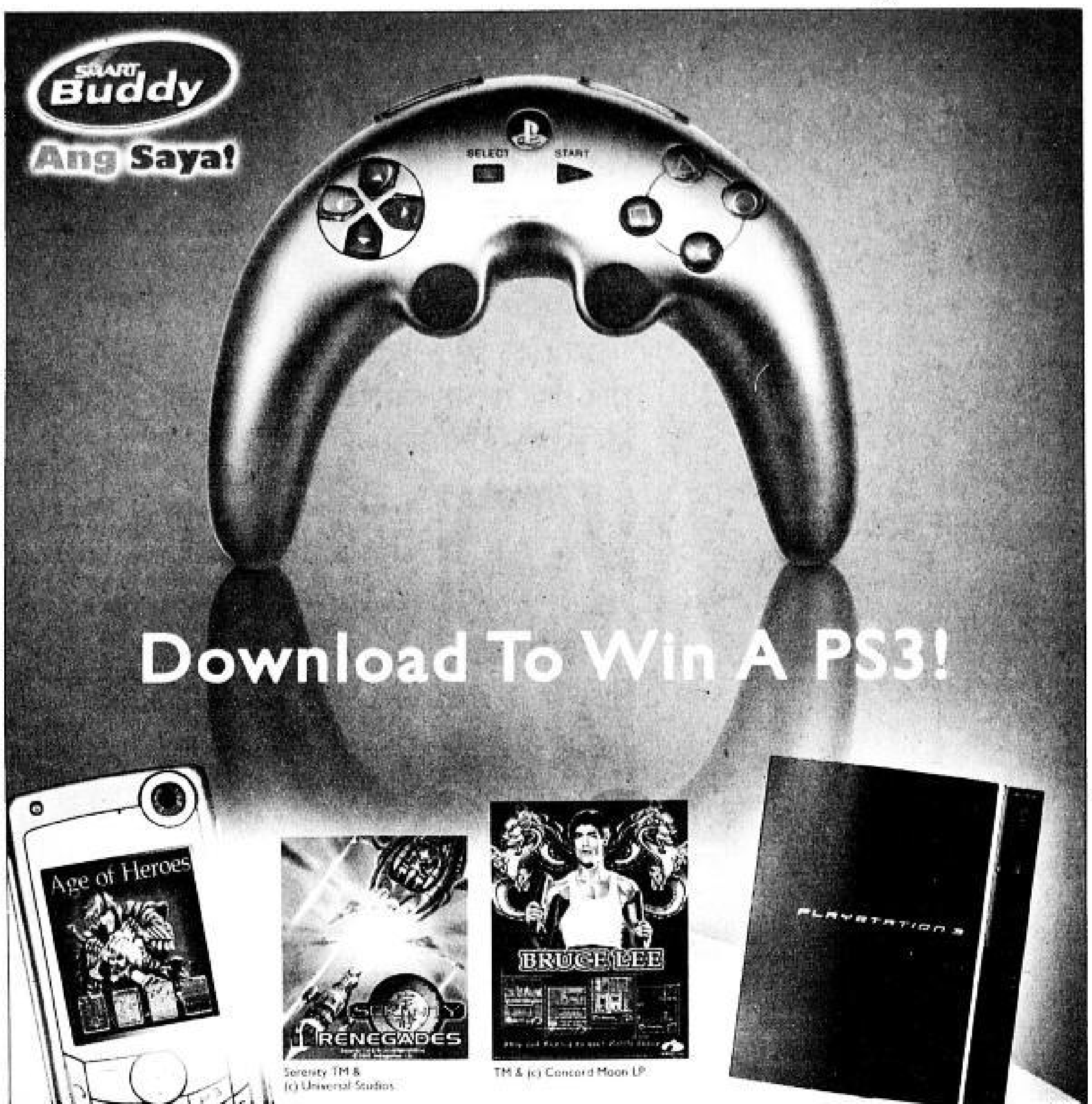

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TRAVEL BRIEFS

Action agenda for Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Tourism Board (HKTB) welcomed tourism-related proposals prepared by the Focus Group on Professional Services, Information & Technology and Tourism in the Action Agenda on China's 11th Five-Year Plan and the Development of Hong Kong. The plan was released by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Government. In promoting "multi-destination" itineraries, HKTB will step up co-operation with partners in the Pan Pearl River Delta to enhance international travelers' knowledge of the region. The board will also partner with mainland travel trade to develop more "multidestination" itineraries. In line with the policy of the China National Tourism Administration on Honest and Quality Travel, HKTB introduced the Honest & Quality Tour program in collaboration with tourism bureaus and trade partners in Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen. HKTB will extend the promotion of these tours to other Mainland cities.

World's only first-, business-class terminal

Qatar Airways has opened the world's only dedicated first- and business-class terminal at the Doha International Airport. The airline, which manages and operates the Doha International Airport in Qatar, built the terminal in just nine months at the cost of US$90 million. It features exclusive check-in, duty-free shopping, conference rooms, nursery and play areas; spa, sauna, and jacuzzi; and fine-dining areas. Qatar Airways expects to more than double its fleet to 110 aircraft over the next 10 years. To coincide with the opening of the new Doha International Airport in 2009, the airline expects delivery of four twin-deck Airbus A380 super jumbos. Qatar Airways flies 12 times weekly nonstop to Doha from Manila and thrice weekly out of Cebu.

Topnotch team

The management of Discovery Shores Boracay, together with TeamOrg, conducted recently a comprehensive two-day team-building seminar. Participants went through a rigorous "Amazing Race" program that incorporated elements of a military boot camp. Team members undertook different challenging tasks that tested their physical and emotional endurance in situations of extraordinary stress.

The program was designed and conducted by TeamOrg, short for Training, Events and Meeting Organizers Inc. TeamOrg is a corporate events organizer specializing in designing and conducting exemplary team-building activities and other corporate affairs.

Travel fair ends Feb. 6

Malaysia Airlines offers customers its value-for-money air travel deals in the ongoing Malaysia Airlines Travel Fair (MATF) until Feb. 6. Five million seats are up for grabs at discounts of up to 70 percent. Children enjoy a further 15-percent discount, while infants are charged only 10 percent of adult fares. The travel fair is being held simultaneously in the Philippines, Malaysia and other Asean countries. Malaysia Airlines offers attractive deals through its ticketing offices and appointed travel agents in the Philippines, and its 24-hour toll-free call center in Malaysia (1300-88300). Travelers can transact these deals through the national carrier's corporate website www.malaysiaairlines.com. This year, the travel period of the MATF offerings will run Feb. 24-Sept. 30, except for embargo periods (Chinese New Year, Holy Week and summer). The program also aims to encourage local and foreign tourists to experience activities lined up for Visit Malaysia Year 2007. To enable customers to accumulate their flying miles and enjoy a wide diversity of travel benefits, Enrich, Malaysia Airlines Loyalty and Frequent Flyer program, also offers a special promo. Every customer who signs up with Enrich during the travel duration and until April 30 will automatically be awarded 2,000 Enrich Miles while every successful 25th applicant will be fast-tracked to Enrich Silver Tier. Call 8436674.

Laguna-Quezon tour

Inscribe Tours is organizing the Laguna-Quezon Hideaways Tour Feb. 17. It will include visits to sculptor Carlito Ortega's workshop in San Pablo; a visit to Kusina Salud for lunch and a culinary demonstration; Earthkeepers Garden in Tiaong, Quezon; Gintong Talulot orchid farm; and the atelier of master potter Ugu Bigyan. Also in the itinerary is a drive along the banks of Sampaloc Lake, the largest of San Pablo's seven lakes. Call 5758370 and 8405912.

Airline has landmark year

Etihad Airways had a landmark year in 2006 with a fleet of new aircraft, 16 new routes, a ground-breaking loyalty program and being named the world's leading new airline for the third year. At the World Travel Awards (WTA) in September, the Abu Dhabi-based national airline of the United Arab Emirates also received the award for the World's Leading Flat-bed Seat. Etihad's pioneering loyalty initiative, Etihad Guest, offers members a flexible range of features, benefits and payment options. It has already enrolled 70,000 members from 136 countries. Etihad's new international destinations include Casablanca, Jakarta, Khartoum, New York and Paris.

BEING COOL IN SCHOOL

Being cool isn't just about having an extraordinary reputation or a stylish look. Its importance lies in gaining acceptance from one's peers and self-confidence that comes with it. This is especially important for children because it helps them learn to function better socially, and it develops their self-esteem.

LOOKING GOOD

While it's cool to be a bit different from others, it's more important to most kids not to look too unusual from the others in school.This becomes a problem in schools where uniforms aren't required or in cases where the other kids have lots of money and wear designer labels and shoes. You can address this by making sure your child's clothes are always clean, free of holes or tears, and fit well. Shoddy, ill-fitting clothes and shoes can become causes of teasing and even magnets for bullies. Even if you can't afford to buy branded things for your children, at least let them choose the stuff you buy for them – lunch boxes, bags, shoes, pencil boxes. Being cool doesn't have to be expensive.

FEELING CONFIDENT

How your child relates with friends and classmates is important to being cool. Boost your child's self confidence by encouraging him to speak properly (good communication skills are essential to good social interaction), and by complimenting him on his appearance and his achievements. Encourage your child to read books, watch movies, play sports, listen to music – in other words, to make himself an interesting person to talk to.

BEING FRIENDLY

While some kids think it's cool to exclude others, it's never uncool to be nice. So teach your child to treat others in a friendly and personable manner, to be helpful and considerate. It's also good to be a bit humble – no one likes a show-off or an arrogant know-it-all. Having a sense of humor and being able to laugh at oneself makes it so much easier to get along with others.

KEEP HEALTHY

If looking good is the first step to being cool, feeling good is even more important. Personal hygiene and good grooming are essential, and so is good physical health. You can help your child by encouraging good eating habits. HUNT'S PORK AND BEANS provide your child with an excellent source of the essential nutrients growing bodies need - magnesium, iron, protein, lycopene, flavonoids and carbohydrates. It's easy to serve and becomes a scrumptious companion to your child's favorite foods, like hotdogs, eggs or ham! Hunt's Pork and Beans is a cool way of giving your child the right nutrients to perform well in school!

Kids want the delicious and nutritious Hunt's Pork & Beans in a thick yummy sauce and rich flavor!
SINCE 1890
Hunt's
PORK & BEANS
Natural Source of Lycopene!
RICH FLAVOR
Para Idol sa School

McDonald's' secret ingredient

McDonald's is committed to serve safe and quality meals to all its customers, in all its stores.

WITH MOMS GROWING more conscious about the quality of the food they feed their kids, McDonald's focuses on food safety by continuously serving meals made with quality ingredients—delicious, kid-friendly, and mommy-approved!

McDonald's Philippines president Kenneth Yang says, "Quality, service, cleanliness and value, or QSC&V, are the four key words that have shaped the way McDonald's cooks its food, runs its store and organization, and serves its customers. Its focus on these four principles has made McDonald's one of the most recognized and beloved brands in the world. QSC&V is at the heart of each and every McDonald's store that mushroomed across America and around the globe."

> "We never leave quality to chance," says McDonald's Philippines President Kenneth Yang.

For instance, in preparing the long-time favorite Cheeseburger, McDonald's follows a series of steps carefully researched in its test kitchens here and abroad. Assembling a Cheeseburger at the fastest time possible involves precision and proper timing. Every second counts.

"This is when QSC&V really matters. It helps us bring order in what we do and consistency in all our products. When it comes to quality, we at McDonald's never leave anything to chance," says Yang.

A promise

McDonald's swears by The Quality Promise, a commitment to serve quality meals to all its customers in all its stores.

Its 250 branches in the Philippines take The Quality Promise to heart. Guided by QSC&V, they join more than 30,000 McDonald's stores in 119 countries in using only fresh, wholesome ingredients; in supporting agricultural and economic growth in communities where McDonald's is present; in partnering with leading industry suppliers and trusted brands; in meeting or exceeding food safety standards and regulatory requirements; in well-thought of packaging that preserves food quality and maintains safety; and in monitoring, measuring and inspecting food quality to assure freshness, quality, and safety.

MCDONALD'S president Kenneth Yang says, "We never leave quality to chance."

QSC&V starts from the time the food is first handled and prepared. At McDonald's, crew members have to wash their hands every hour and sanitize every 30 minutes to ensure that food handling is at its most hygienic. They must wear different gloves during different stages of food production. Separate spatulas for preparing raw and cooked eggs are used to prevent contamination.

McDonald's eggs are carefully inspected, washed, sanitized, oil-coated and kept refrigerated. They are only cracked immediately before cooking to maintain their freshness, quality and taste.

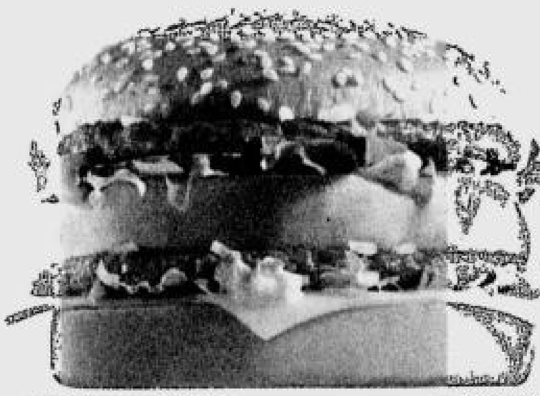
To make its world-famous French Fries and Hash browns, McDonald's uses special variety potatoes. The fries are quickly frozen to assure fresh flavor and to retain maximum nutrients. French Fries are salted just prior to serving. They can also be served without salt on request.

McDonald's uses prime white fish frozen immediately after it is caught for optimum freshness.

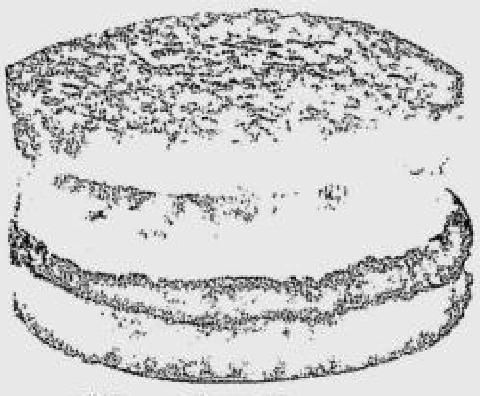
100 percent pure

Prepared and packaged at McDonald's approved meat plants, BigMac and Cheeseburger patties are 100 percent pure beef with no additives and preservatives. The beef patties are grilled without fats and oil, with only salt and pepper for flavoring.

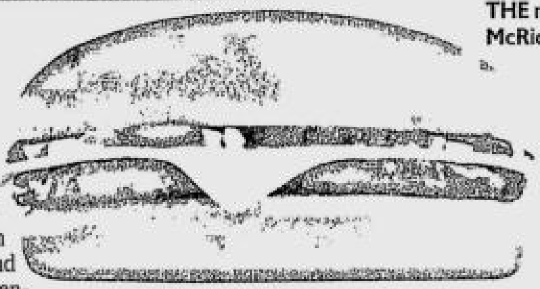
Chicken patties are made from boneless breast and thigh meat and coated with a specially seasoned batter. Chicken McNuggets are made from boneless breast, fillet, and thigh meat and shaped to ensure consistency in weight.



THE famous Big Mac



THE newest Longga Supreme McRice Burger



CHEESEBURGER patties are made of 100 percent pure beef with no additives and preservatives.

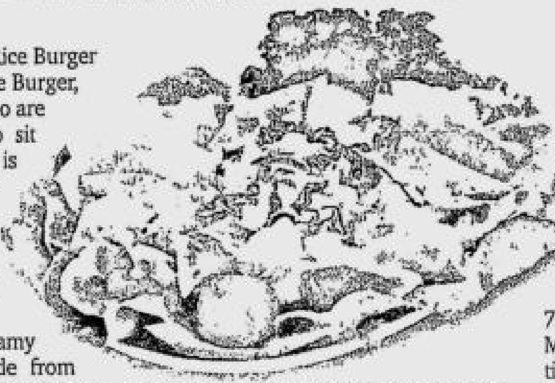
McDonald's uses special variety potatoes for its famous crispy French Fries.

The newest addition to the Rice Burger family, Longga Supreme McRice Burger, is ideal for people on-the-go who are rushing and have no time to sit down for a proper breakfast. It is perfectly seasoned, made from 100 percent pure beef, and served with scrambled egg, garlic mayo and placed in-between two garlic-sprinkled rice patties.

McDonald's smooth and creamy shakes and sundaes are made from chilled, pasteurized milk to ensure longer shelf-life.

Greens, like lettuce, used in Big Mac and other sandwiches are grown and harvested by farmers who follow the McDonald's Agricultural Assurance Program. They are free from traces of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. The vegetables are cut and processed on the same day to guarantee freshness and quality.

Managers perform a food safety check before the first sandwich is served to ensure that products are well-cooked, packaged right, and served hot—reheating is prohibited. Foods are placed in the food warming bin for a holding time of 10 minutes. Food items past the holding time are immediately discarded. Food is always served fresh, hot and fast at McDonald's.



THE all-new healthy Fresh Green Salad (available in selected stores).

"McDonald's goes by the rule, 'If it's not right, don't serve it.' This ensures that our customers always get clean, safe, great-tasting food in any McDonald's branch they dine in," Yang says.

Right temperature

Receiving and storing food is equally important. All delivered items are checked for important dates and information. Receiving temperatures must be correct to ensure that the goods arrive in top condition. The FIFO (first in, first out) system is applied in using raw ingredients.

And, like all doting moms, McDonald's takes cleanliness very seriously. There are 72 cleaning towels distributed in the store. Many are placed in selected food preparation areas for hassle-free clean up. Crew members carry wet and dry towels, and a spray bottle with sanitizer for cleaning tables and in-store fixtures.

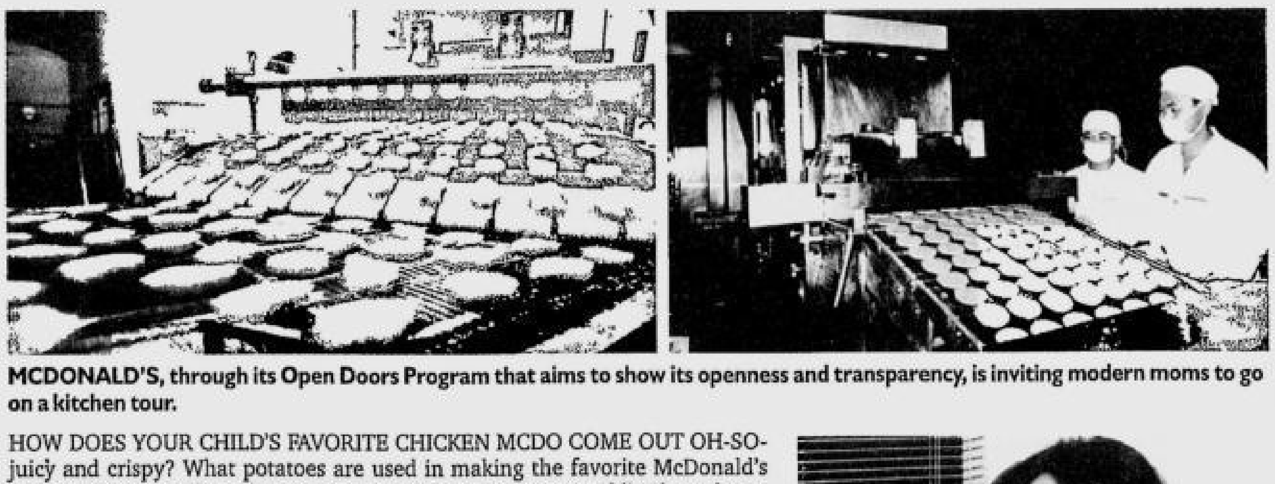
Aside from local exposure, each McDonald's team receives instructional materials from the global headquarters in the United States to ensure that operational procedures and quality standards are aligned worldwide. Also, restaurant managers receive mandatory global training to ensure global standards are upheld.

It may take a lot of effort and hard work but, according to Yang, as long as they make kids and moms happy, it's all worth it!

McDonald's is the world's number one quick-service restaurant chain. It has been providing high quality products at good value for over 25 years in the Philippines.

What's behind every McDonald's meal?

Find out as McDonald's opens its kitchen doors to all



MCDONALD'S, through its Open Doors Program that aims to show its openness and transparency, is inviting modern moms to go on a kitchen tour.

HOW DOES YOUR CHILD'S FAVORITE CHICKEN MCDO COME OUT OH-SO-juicy and crispy? What potatoes are used in making the favorite McDonald's French Fries? How long does it take to cook a yummy McDonald's Cheeseburger? What nutrients do you get from a McDonald's salad?

To fulfill the brand's promise of food safety and quality, McDonald's boldly does what no local fast-food chain has done before—open its kitchens to the public with its Open Doors Program.

First introduced in McDonald's China and Australia, the Open Doors Program underscores the brand's focus on food quality, safety, and cleanliness. For McDonald's, it is a way of communicating to all its customers—especially moms—that each McDonald's meal is thoughtfully made, under the best and most caring conditions. This means they are bringing their family to a safe haven that takes their well-being to heart.

Key words

Quality, service, cleanliness and value, or QSC&V, are the four key words that have guided the way McDonald's prepares its food. QSC&V brings consistency to all McDonald's products. This consistency has made McDonald's one of the most loved and trusted brands in the world.

On Feb. 25, McDonald's will literally open its doors to the public and conduct a tour of its world-class kitchens in selected outlets nationwide. It will demonstrate how each McDonald's branch takes food preparation, thus the well-being of every family, to heart. "Opening our kitchens reinforces our openness and transparency," says Margot Torres, McDonald's vice president for marketing.

MARGOT TORRES, vice president for marketing, says "Moms can feel at ease knowing they are giving their family only the freshest and best quality meals at McDonald's."

Interested parties may register until Feb. 10 at the following participating McDonald's outlets: Laoag, Lepanto, Quezon Avenue, Strata, Governor Forbes, Las Piñas, Sucat Palanyag, Osmeña Cebu, Cebu North Road, Binondo, Bacolod Lacson, CSI Lucao Pangasinan, Olongapo-Gapan Road, and SM Sta. Rosa.

The Open Doors program will take place simultaneously at 2 p.m. on Feb. 25 in all 14 participating branches. For inquiries, please call McDonald's at 7500251 or e-mail them at opendoors@ph.mcd.com.

"At McDonald's, moms can feel at ease knowing that they are giving their children and the rest of the family only the freshest and best quality meals," says Torres with a smile.

Sharon Cuneta, the McDonald's mom

MCDONALD'S most valuable brand ambassador, Sharon Cuneta. "Our relationship has lasted this long because I genuinely believe in the quality of their food. That's aside, of course, from the fact that their food is really delicious to begin with."

MCDONALD'S PHILIPPINES' MOST VALUABLE and enduring brand ambassador has been inviting us to enjoy McDonald's tasty burgers and crunchy chicken through the years.

Today, Megastar Sharon Cuneta takes on a bigger role as the embodiment of the spirit and essence of the McDonald's mom—accomplished and independent but still very family-oriented and discerning especially about what to give her children.

"The McDonald's mom is well-rounded," says McDonald's marketing vice president Margot Torres. "She deeply loves her family and wants nothing but the best for them. At the same time, she celebrates her individuality and is involved with the world around her."

And who better to represent McDonald's' idea of the modern mom than the epitome of the modern mom herself—the Megastar? Not only is she a successful actress, an acclaimed singer, a prolific student, and one of the country's most influential celebrity figures; she is, more importantly, a supportive wife to Senator Francis Pangilinan and mother to KC, Frankie, and Miel.

Sharon says, with a smile, "My children are the most important people in my life. I am very protective of them. That is why I try to give them only what I think is best for them. And, with McDonald's, our relationship has lasted this long because I genuinely believe in the quality of their food. That's aside, of course, from the fact that their food is really delicious."

Moving

The Megastar's genuine love for McDonald's is captured in a moving and heartwarming television commercial that features Sharon and daughter Frankie, entitled "Frankie's Eyes".

DDB Philippines executive creative director Teeny Gonzales, who helped conceptualize the commercial, says, "This new campaign is about how a kid is at her happiest when she sees her mom is happy, too. It is depicted, through the eyes of a child, how simple joys such as visiting McDonald's can mean so much to her relationship with her mom. And because her mom is so busy during the week, she cherishes these bonding moments. It's a very touching depiction of a very real thing."

"Everything we see in the commercial is natural," says Torres. "Their relationship is truly playful and affectionate; they aren't acting at all. And that's what's beautiful about it."

The experience was a first for mother-and-daughter since Frankie also recorded the commercial's song. The lovable Frankie is a revelation! The heartwarming lyrics were beautifully sung in an innocent voice—pure and uncontrived.

During the song's recording, the doting mother couldn't help shedding a few tears as she video taped Frankie's first professional recording.

With the combined efforts of McDonald's marketing team led by Torres and marketing manager Barbie Ocampo; DDB Philippines' accounts team headed by Susan Dimacali, client service director Tey San Diego, account director Mike Alturas; DDB Philippines' creative team led by executive creative director Teeny Gonzales, art director Joseph Velasquez, copywriter Jay San Luis; producer Irene Chingcuangco, and director Stephen Ngo, the result is an emotional visualization that will touch any viewer.

Torres adds, "The commercial is McDonald's' way of honoring modern moms like Sharon. With healthy and delicious food served every day of the week, moms can trust McDonald's to help them raise healthy, bright, and happy children."

She continues, "One way a mom manifests her love for her family is by providing only quality food. With McDonald's, modern moms have a safe and reliable parenting partner."

THE MEGASTAR has been inviting people to enjoy McDonald's tasty burgers and crunchy chicken through the years.

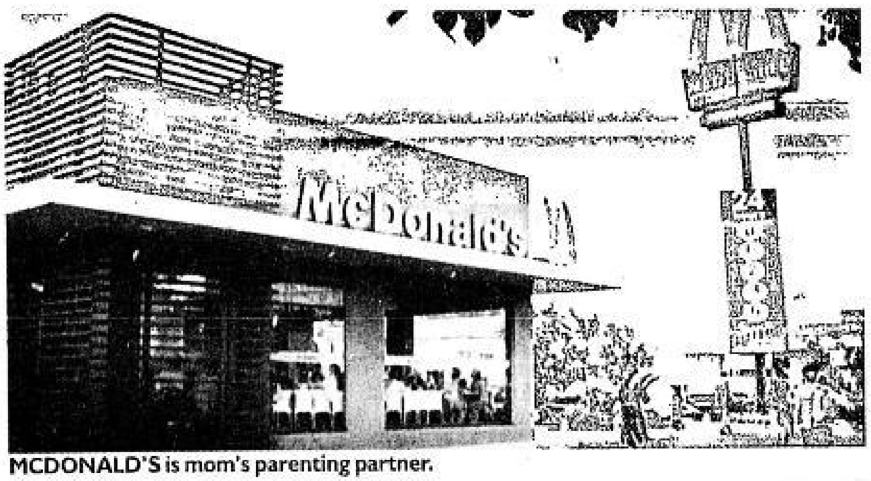
SHARON says, "My children are the most important people in my life. I am very protective of them. That is why I try to give them only what I think is best."

THE MEGASTAR epitomizes the modern mom for McDonald's.

LIKE mother like daughter. Frankie's previous campaign photos for McDonald's

Behind Frankie's eyes

Scenes from McDonald's latest heartwarming commercial



MCDONALD'S is mom's parenting partner.

McDonald's
McDonald's

HOLDING hands *at pa*-swing-swing *pa*

SHARON and Frankie share a unique bonding experience at McDonald's.

SHARON and Frankie's heartwarming moment at McDonald's

Sa February 25,
dito tayo magkita-kita.

Have a first-hand look at McDo

Be there when

See how meticulo
of cleanliness an

KINDLY REFER TO
WHERE YOU CAN R
Registration will be
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ALL registrants mus

Open Doors

PARTICIPA

- Bacolod L
- Binondo
- Cebu Nort
- CSI Lucad
- Gov. Forb

nald's world-class standards.

we open our kitchen doors on February 25, 2007.

us McDo can be and experience the McDo brand
quality. Mag-register na in select restaurants.

HE LIST BELOW FOR PARTICIPATING RESTAURANTS
GISTER FOR AN OPEN DOORS TOUR.
om January 27 to February 10, 2007. Slots will be available on
ved basis.
be at their assigned restaurants 2:00 p.m. sharp on the day of the tour.

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love ko 'to

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h Road
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- Quezon Avenue
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- Strata
- Sucat Palanyag

In a solitary season

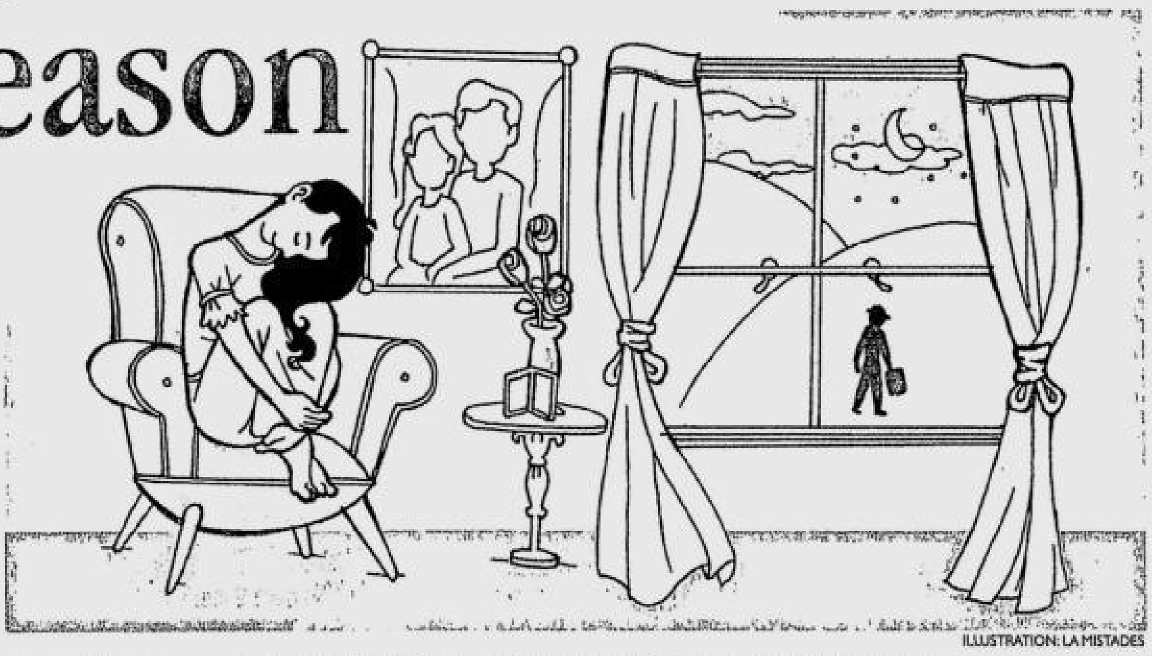


ILLUSTRATION: LA MISTADES

By Marcia E. Sandoval

> A widow reunites with a childhood friend and discovers a new-found romance—solitude

THERE COMES A TIME IN A WOMAN'S life when she has to face a solitary season.

If she is single and reaching spinsterhood, she may freeze and wonder why life is passing her by.

My solitary season was widowhood. After 46 years of a beautiful marriage, my husband died. I was lost, confused, and I wallowed in self-pity. Then I began to enter the dark tunnel of depression. I was in agony and despair for three years.

A phone call from a childhood friend came suddenly. He was still in the States but he was coming to town and he wanted to see me.

I was jubilant! To see an old friend again after over four decades—it was something I could look forward to. I toyed with various visions of what he would look like after so many years. And what about me? Richly endowed in the wrong places, far from being a fiddle, and the rest of me I leave to nevermind.

I was delighted to meet him. He was the same fellow I had known well, with a big smile that lit up his face and the same presence that gave him distinction. His jokes were funnier than ever, accompanied by lilting laughter. But I did notice that he was not aging as nicely as I thought he should.

We spent the first days in a rollback album of memories. We remembered the endless fun we had playing *patintero* on moonlit nights on the streets of Malate. The fistfights under the *santol* tree. The war years when we lost one another. All told, we had a happy childhood, and we were thankful for that.

Serious talk came next, talk that dwelled on our families and how we were now living. He had lost his wife to cancer, which also struck down my husband.

He spoke of a widower's loneliness. He talked of "perhaps a life together" with somebody. I thought it was the start of courtship.

The whole thing caught me off guard. But I liked the thrill. In my sunset years it seemed that love was beginning to change everything. Romance was in the air.

Love again

It is not true that love is only for the young. I felt the the thrill of seeing my name in his handwriting. I again experienced the girlish joy of finding a teenage romance rekindled. There seemed something very special, very mischievous, splendid, in a second-time-around.

We found ourselves liking the very same things such as quiet candlelight dinners in unpretentious places and buckets of oysters (which I opened for him and which he enjoyed like a true gourmet).

Through big, fat tears we roared with laughter watching a comedy show on television. Then I got ribbing after he realized I could drink more dry red wine than he could.

It was a whiff of magic when we realized we enjoyed poetry, flamenco, and the opera. Then I discovered that he rated God as No. 1 in any relationship. What beauty, what spiritual connection! Everything, I told myself, was much too perfect!

But the day of reckoning came. I had to give my answer. I found myself in a state of uncertainty. He wasn't "sweeping me off my feet," as I thought he was. I realized I was merely enjoying the change. Besides, I couldn't live in the US, and he in turn could not reside here, he had his own life there. Both of us had reached the age that we could not anymore compromise.

Having said our good-byes, I went home to curl up in my favorite chair. In the stillness of that moment, I realized I was romancing with my life. It clearly dawned on me that I was immensely pleased with myself, with this life I was living to the fullest, with the enjoyment that went as far as my energies would lead me.

I loved the manner in which I was living, the warmth of the people who surrounded me and the way they cared about and loved me, the kindness I found in my daily existence and the way I was constantly touched by my Heavenly Father.

I am truly in love, and the days I spend in love are my romance.

I do not have remorse or regret. It was thrilling while it lasted. I read somewhere: "Love is an emotion and romance is an evocative expression. Woman needs and wants love, but our constant craving is for romance. If life is a dance, romance is a tango."

When friends ask me about him and what happened and why, I simply tell them with a naughty grin and a chuckle: "Love ended even before it began."

Lisa Macuja as Juliet: Once more, with feeling

OF THE MANY BALLETS THAT LISA Macuja-Elizalde has performed, "Romeo and Juliet" belongs to that short list of roles that she doesn't mind dancing again and again. Aside from being one of the best known tales of romance, the story gives her the chance to portray a most beloved heroine—and a complex character at that.

"Imagine what Juliet has to go through in three acts," Lisa points out.

"She experiences adolescence, her first love, her first kiss, her first passionate night of love, heartbreak, ultimately leading to her suicide."

Lisa, who first danced as Juliet when she was 24 (with partner Chinese danseur Ou Lu in a Royal New Zealand Ballet production) is reprising the role at the age of 42. With her gamine looks, slight frame and her lithe body, Lisa can still certainly pull off playing a teenager. But the years of experience actually help her express more fully Juliet's transition from young girl to woman.

"I don't think a real-life 13-year-old can really take on the scope of emotions that Juliet has to go through. For me, the biggest challenge is showing her age from a shy, young teenager to a knowing woman to a human being so desperately in love that she is willing to kill herself."

WITH Rudy De Dios as Romeo.

Stepping into Juliet's shoes once more understandably excites Lisa. This she gets a chance to do as Ballet Manila presents Serguie Vikulov's "Romeo and Juliet," with music by Prokofiev, as its Valentine offering at the Star Theater. "Romeo and Juliet" actually marks two milestones—the twelfth year of Ballet Manila and the restaging of the Vikulov choreography which was the inaugural production when Star Theater first opened in 2001.

Compared to when she first danced Juliet, Lisa notes she is more relaxed now. "With the knowledge and skills over the years comes the ability to be flexible. I guess I am also more liberated in the way I interpret the role because of status, age and rank. I have also grown more assertive as a dancer, meaning I can have my own inputs and experiment and it's okay."

Lisa is quite amused that she will be paired off with a very young Romeo in the person of 21-year-old danseur Rudy de Dios. During rehearsals, it is Lisa who coaches her partner on how he can put more feeling and passion into his role.

"I give him tips on how the first kiss of Romeo and Juliet should go—how it develops," she laughingly relates. "The audience has to feel that Romeo was at first hesitant and Juliet has to show that she is open to him and so their kiss deepens. Our goal is to convey through our bodies the emotions and feelings of this couple down to the last person in the balcony."

Like many high school students, Lisa was introduced to William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" as a required reading material for English. She remembers that her class in St. Theresa's College even went to watch the Filipino version-a translation by the late National Artist Rolando Tinio—at the CCP Little Theater, with Tommy Abuel and Ella Luansing in the title roles.

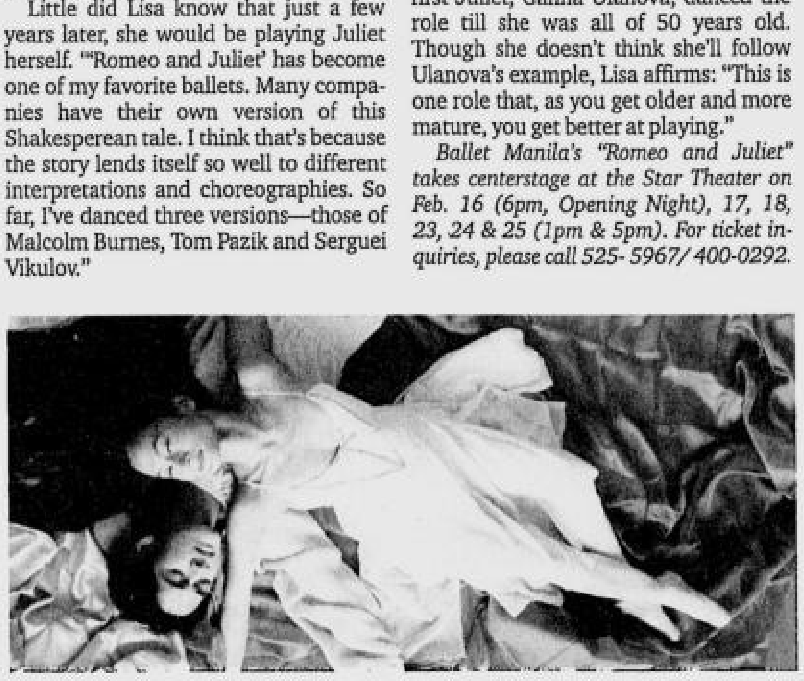
Little did Lisa know that just a few years later, she would be playing Juliet herself. "'Romeo and Juliet' has become one of my favorite ballets. Many companies have their own version of this Shakesperean tale. I think that's because the story lends itself so well to different interpretations and choreographies. So far, I've danced three versions—those of Malcolm Burnes, Tom Pazik and Serguei Vikulov."

MACUJA and some of the members of the cast of Ballet Manila's Romeo and Juliet.

For the upcoming production, Ballet Manila has tapped stage actress Chin Chin Gutierrez to narrate the "Romeo and Juliet" story. The sets originally designed by Fred Elizalde, Lisa's husband, are also being reconstructed.

Lisa is not sure until what age she will—or can—continue to tackle Juliet. She points out however that Prokofiev's first Juliet, Galina Ulanova, danced the role till she was all of 50 years old. Though she doesn't think she'll follow Ulanova's example, Lisa affirms: "This is one role that, as you get older and more mature, you get better at playing."

Ballet Manila's "Romeo and Juliet" takes centerstage at the Star Theater on Feb. 16 (6pm, Opening Night), 17, 18, 23, 24 & 25 (1pm & 5pm). For ticket inquiries, please call 525- 5967/ 400-0292.


"OUR GOAL is to convey through our bodies the emotions and feelings of this couple," Macuja said.

GOINGS ON

FDCP 2007 on Feb. 8

SAMSUNG PRESENTS THE PHILIPPINE Fashion Design Competition 2007 and FDCP Trends Show 2007 at 6 p.m., Feb. 8, at the Glorietta Activity Center, Ayala Center, Makati City. Theme of the event is "Fashion as an Expression of Mind & Body." It is presented in cooperation with Fashion & Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP), Ayala Malls, Metro magazine, Bench and Brother International Phils. Corp. Dong Omaga Diaz, chair of PFDC 2007, said there would be two grand prizes for apparel and accessories.

CONFAB. The Down Syndrome Association of the Philippines, Inc. (DSAPI) marks the 5th National Down Syndrome Consciousness Month this February. Observance of the annual event was provided for in Proclamation No. 157, issued in 2002 by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. It recognized the accomplishments of DSAPI in increasing awareness of Down Syndrome and in helping educate the public. It is estimated that a child with Down Syndrome is born every two hours in the Philippines. Parents often have no idea of the potential of the child, or how to provide proper care and medical attention. The Philippines has about 100,000 children with Down Syndrome. The DSAPI is at the 2nd Floor, 6372 Agrifina Building, Camia corner Meleguas Streets Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City; tel. 8953606/tel/fax 8959642; e-mail dsapi@hotmail.com; Davao, tel/fax (082)2342280, e-mail dsapi_davao@yahoo.com; Cebu, tel. (032)4146210, tel/fax (032)2380106, e-mail dsapi_cebu@yahoo.com.

QCHS HOMECOMING. The Quezon City High School Class 1988 will have a grand alumni homecoming on April 8. Members of the class are invited to participate in meetings prior to the event. Call Marcelina Lopez at 0917-5770833.

PHONE PLAN. Sun Group Plans continues to offer irresistible postpaid subscription packages for group subscribers. Sun Group Plan 999 gives outstanding value for only P999/month. Subscribers get a choice of new, stylish handsets and enjoy non-stop calling and texting with Sun's 24/7 Call and Text Unlimited. They can also enjoy 750 free texts monthly to other networks. The line-up of phones available includes Motorola C261 Camera Phone, Nokia 2310 with FM Radio, LG KG220 Camera Phone with multi-shot feature, and Philips S660 Camera and Video Phone. The more practical can opt for Sun Group Plan 699. For only P699 a month, get three Nokia 1112 phones, discounted Daylite Call and Text Unlimited service, and 300 free texts to other networks. Also available is Sun Group Plans 899 for pairs, with two free phones and two lines at a monthly subscription of only P899. Some of the handsets available for this plan are the Nokia 6070 are Sony Ericsson K310i. Call 3958000.

VALENTINE PROMO. Couples aged 20 and above and married for at least one year are invited to join The Brick Road's Valentine Sweethearts Promo. Every P500 single receipt from Sta. Lucia East Department Store until Feb. 10 entitles a couple to join the contest. Three lucky pairs will win a Valentine's Day dinner, cash and pampering package. Present receipt at the Customer Service Booth, Ground Level Phase III to get an entry form. Attach a short essay of your love story and say why you should be chosen as winners. Call 6815401 local 118. The Brick Road is at the mall's East Wing Carpark.

Mr. World-Philippines search Feb. 17

OF THE TOP 22 FINALISTS WHO qualified to join the search for Mr. World-Philippines 2007, only one will emerge to win the title and have the chance to represent the country in the Mr. World competition to be held in Sanya, China.

An excellent mix of good looks, charm, strength, style, intelligence and character will be his passport to fame and fortune.

Locally, Mr. World-Philippines will be staged by the Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc., which has been sending out beauties for the Ms. Universe, Ms. International and Ms. World pageants.

The finals will be held on February 17, 2007, 7 pm at the Araneta Coliseum.

Mr. World is organized by the same group that stages the popular annual Ms. World beauty pageant. It has been searching the world over for that man with the X factor since 1996. Now, more than a decade later, the pageant has grown in popularity. Eighty countries are slated to compete in the March 2007 competition, set—for the first time—on the pristine shores of Sanya, China.

Contestants will not only be taking to the catwalk in their menswear and sportswear, but will also "be tested on their strength, perseverance, mental agility and determination, set against some of China's most spectacular locations." This is no ordinary looks-only competition.

Also, for the first time for Mr. World, the audience can vote for their favorite contestants online.

True to the Ms. World Organization philosophy of beauty with a purpose, the pageants have raised over £250 million for children's charities around the world. The winners of both Mr. World and Ms. World titles also freely give their time and efforts to fundraising activities in every country that they visit.

Mr. World-Philippines 2007 is presented by Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc.

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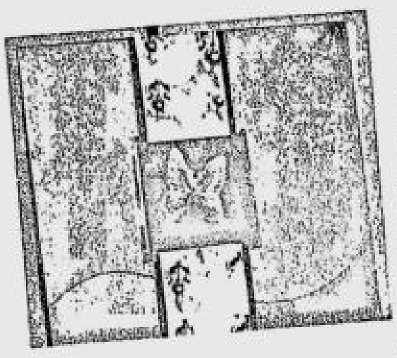
Romance at the bay

A GRAND FAIR FOR debutants and grooms will be presented on Feb. 10-11, 10 a.m.-8 p.m., at 1 Esplanade beside Mall of Asia, in SM Central Business Park, Seaside Cor. Bay Blvd., Pasay City by Chu-U-Yen Events.

The venue's first grand wedding and debut fair showcases the best in the wedding industry like caterers, photo-video specialists, designers, florists, stylists, cake makers, invitation printers, souvenir makers, musicians and coordinators.



Other features are food tasting by sponsor Hizon's Catering, fashion show of the latest in bridal couture by Sammy Amante Jr., *calesa* and bridal limousine (Limousines by Robert Camba), parade (courtesy of The Party Channel's Mervin Galang), live music, fireworks display by Dragon Fireworks, among others.

Soon-to-wed couples have a chance to win Celestial Diamond wedding rings by booking with participating suppliers during the two-day event.

Zero-percent installment and use of credit cards are facilitated by Banco de Oro and Equitable Credit Cards. SM Development Corp. will showcase model units.

Couples can register at www.chu-u-yen.com. Call 0919-6810600.

Face Silhouette by Artist Priadji

The Schedule of Silhouette Events

Feb. 9 (Fri)
Megamall branch
11:00am-2:30pm, 4:00pm-8:30pm

Feb.10 (Sat)
Glorietta branch
10:30am-3:00pm, 3:30pm-8:45pm

Feb.11 (Sun)
Mall of Asia branch
10:30am-3:00pm, 3:30pm-8:45pm

Feb.12 (Mon)
North Edsa branch
11:00am-2:30pm, 4:00pm-8:30pm

Feb. 13 (Tues)
Quezon Avenue branch
11:00am-2:30pm, 4:00pm-8:30pm

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Class Dates:

March 20 – 23, 2007	(Appetizer/Foie Gras)
March 27- 30, 2007	(Poultry)
April 17-20, 2007	(Meats)
April 24-27, 2007	(Seafoods)
May 8-11, 2007	(White Wine)
May 15-18, 2007	(Red Wine)
May 22-25, 2007	(Fruits & Desserts)
June 5 - 8, 2007	(Degustacion)

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Classes open on February 20, & June 5, 2007.

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AICA's Fundamentals of Professional Cooking will train you into becoming a very confident cook in a professional and recreational manner. The 16-session course allows you to produce any recipe imaginable and is available in weekday and weekend schedules.
Weekday class starts on Feb 20, 2007 and weekend class starts Feb. 24, 2007.
For all courses mentioned above, please call the school for tuition fee details and other information.
There are only 14 slots in each batch so applicants are urged to register immediately.

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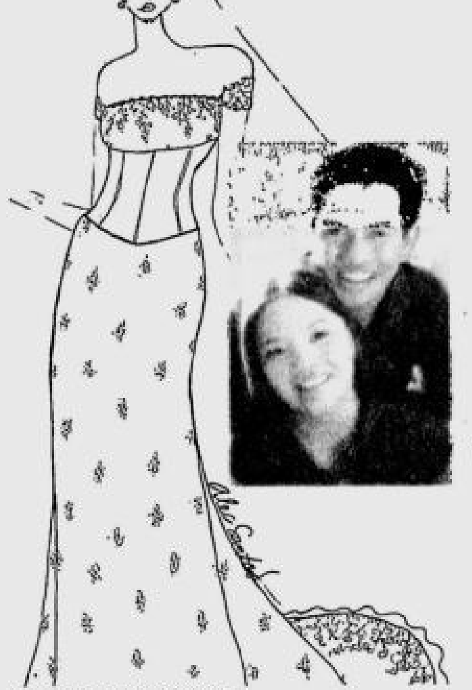
Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, *P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.*



VIANA-YAMZON

Rolan Viana, son of Rogelio Viana (deceased) and **Pilar Masangkay-Viana**, will wed **Carin N. Yamzon**, daughter of **Alfonso** and **Zenaida Yamzon**, on Feb. 10 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Shrine Parish, New Manila, QC. Reception will follow at the Courtyard, Fernwood Gardens I, QC. The bride will wear a creation by **Alec M. Santos.**

VILLARANTE-ALAVA

Arniel Ponsaran Villarante, son of **Eduardo** and **Thelma Villarante**, married recently **April Rhea Gonzales Alava**, daughter of **Reynaldo** and **Rita Alava**, at the Our Lady of Montserrat Parish, Jaro, Iloilo City. An Italian-inspired reception was held at Puerto Real Clubhouse.

DIMAANDAL-HALCON

Newlyweds **Emerson** and **Grace Adeline Halcon Dimaandal** are flanked by (from right) their parents, engineer **Juanito** and **Billy Dimaandal**, who flew in from Dubai for the wedding of their eldest son; and **Nelia C. Halcon**, EVP of the Chamber of Mines of the Philippines, with eldest son **Neil Angelo C. Halcon**, who flew in from Japan to attend the wedding.

GEBBINCK-BORROMEO

William Klein-Gebbinck, son of **John** and **Johanna Klein-Gebbinck** (deceased), exchanged vows recently with **Thelma H. Borromeo**, daughter of **Benito** and **Fe Borromeo**, at Sta. Maria della Strada Church, Pansol St., cor. Katipunan Road, Loyola Heights, Quezon City.

CHUPUNGCO-MANZANO

Jojo Chupungco, son of **Jose** and **Julita Chupungco**, married recently **Pittipat Manzano,** daughter of **Rodrigo** and **Lilia Manzano,** at the La Virgen de Fatima Chapel. Nuptial rites were officiated by Fr. **James B. Reuter**, SJ, and Fr. **Carmelo A. Caluag II**. Reception followed at the Greenmeadows Clubhouse.

PINEDA-PANGILINAN

Anton Pineda, son of **Antonio** (deceased) and **Luz Pineda**, exchanged I do's with **Shienna Pangilinan**, daughter of **Abundio** and **Nely Pangilinan**, on Jan. 20 at Mt. Carmel Church in Sabang, Baliuag, Bulacan. Reception followed at The Greenery.

NOBELLO-MAAGHOP

Rommel G. Nobello and **Sheryl E. Maaghop** exchanged vows on Jan. 23, 4 p.m. at Iglesia ni Cristo Central Temple in Quezon City. Reception was held at Fernwood Gardens in Quezon City.

GUERRERO-TEJADA

Eric A. Guerrero, son of **Manuel** and **Lilia Guerrero**, wed recently **Maria Ella O. Tejada**, daughter of **George** and **Estrella Tejada**, at San Agustin Church. Reception was held at the Fort Santiago.

LARGA - DE JESUS

Leonardo P. Larga Jr., son of **Leonardo Sr.** and **Lyn Larga**, wed **Mayette N. de Jesus**, daughter of **Francisco** and **Leticia de Jesus**, on Dec. 16, at Barasoain Church, Malolos Bulacan.

MABILOG-SANTOS

Mike Mabilog, son of **Felix J. Mabilog Jr.** and **Priscilla T. Mabilog**, and **Kitty Santos**, daughter of **Arturo S. Santos** and **Virginia R. Santos**, were wed at solemn church rites officiated by Fr. **Asis R. Vajao**, OSA, at San Agustin Church in Intramuros mid-December last year. Reception followed at the Maynila Ballroom of the Manila Hotel.

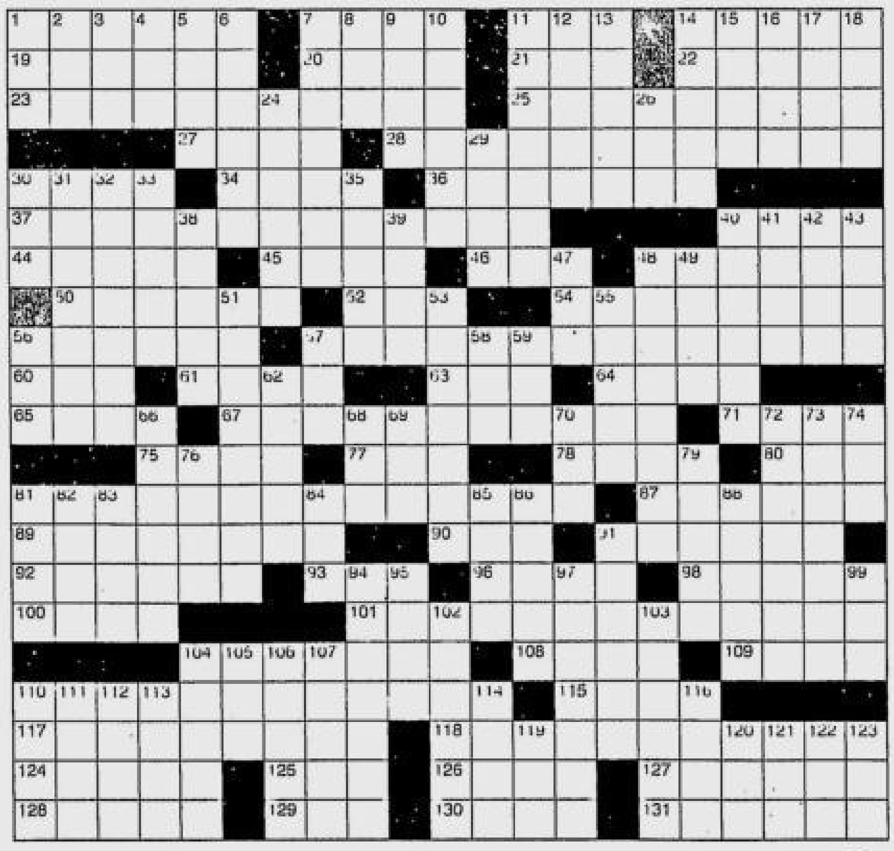
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

RACK

ACROSS
1 Like fluid in a battery
7 Actress Anderson
11 Cherry, e.g.
14 Custom
19 — uno
20 Stunt man Knievel
21 Suffix with project or percent
22 Tickle pink
23 Supermodel, e.g.
25 Bobbie Gentry's "Ode" dedicatee
27 With 69-Down, GI's hairstyle
28 Choice for some credit purchases
30 Elderly
34 "It's all clear"
36 De-clutters
37 Currency converter's business
40 Squealers
44 Ancient: Prefix
45 Pakistani's language
46 Meadow moisture
48 Sultanate on Borneo
50 Actress Brigitte
52 Song syllable
54 New York NHLer
56 Deteriorate
57 Epicure's love
60 Wrinkly dog
61 Jacob's first wife
63 Millennia upon millennia
64 Completely change
65 Fit to —
67 PR person's practice
71 Magazine publisher Conde —
75 Roman 507
77 "The King and I" star Brynner
78 Cain raiser
80 Old airline
81 Statistic in demography
87 Old British kingdom
89 Go beyond, as bounds
90 Word div.
91 It's left in a will
92 Affluence
93 Actor McKellen
96 Not strict
98 Egg-shaped
100 Uruguay's Punta del —
101 Chinese restaurant freebie
104 Stamp incorrectly, perhaps
108 Settee
109 Film spool
110 Second or hour, e.g.
115 Mine and his
117 Of equal measure
118 Automated walkway, e.g.
124 Ingredient in curry powder
125 Bar code scanner: Abbr.
126 Raison d'—
127 In a spooky way
128 Minor fights
129 "—, you!"
130 Byway
131 Seize anew

DOWN
1 Director Lee
2 — -de-sac
3 "— changed man!"
4 LBJ's party
5 Camaro model
6 Katie of CBS News
7 Some hosiery
8 Prefix with duct
9 Unhip sort
10 "Fighting" Big Ten team
11 Chest frame
12 T-man Ness
13 Investigate
14 Successors
15 Smart guy?
16 Mexican peninsula
17 "... like — not!"
18 Angry, with "off"
24 Close again
26 Canou of Broadway
29 Fax, e.g.
30 Current unit
31 Occupy oneself with
32 Blow up
33 — -tongue (plant with purple-spotted flowers)
35 Put an — (stop)
38 Alpine song
39 Pundit
40 Is overlong
41 The Beatles' "— Love Her"
42 "YM" reader
43 Colt's father
47 Apt humor
48 Puritanical regulations
49 Incursion
51 Half of a third
53 Iris rings
55 Menu fish
56 New Deal org.
57 F-J linkup
58 Sun. follower
59 Med. focus
62 "This is not —"
66 Channel swimmer Gertrude
68 Wall St. site
69 See 27-Across
70 Light beam
72 On the line
73 Honeybunch
74 Levy
76 Suit part
79 "Likewise"
81 Actor Rob
82 Singer Burl
83 Notable act
84 Prefix with dermal
85 Russian "no"
86 "Here Comes Santa —"
88 Relish
91 Sight to behold
94 Very different (from)
95 Harsh punishment for a tube-loving kid
97 Pried
99 Sinuous fish
102 Harvester
103 Vocation
104 Outward expressions
105 S&L accrual
106 Last name in beer brewing
107 Unfreeze
110 Quirky behaviors
111 "The jig —"
112 68-Down cultural ctr.
113 Discharge
114 Actor Jared
116 "Peter Pan" pirate
119 "— pro nobis"
120 Dinner dropping
121 By way of
122 Fraternal lodge member
123 Deli loaf



answer on page F4

Win a Valentine date with a celebrity

GET A CHANCE TO DATE YOUR favorite celebrity with "Romance at the Robinsons Malls" on Feb. 11 at selected Robinsons Malls.

Men and women 18-25 years old may participate by registering as "searchees" at the Robinsons Malls information counters until Feb. 9.

The first 15 registrants will participate in special challenges and the top three will join the final Question & Answer with a celebrity searcher.

Participating celebrities are Marky Cielo, Ryza Cenon, Nadine Samonte, Jennylyn Mercado, Isabel Oli, Mark Herras, Gian Carlos, Iwa Moto, Brad Turvey, Yasmien Kurdi and Jonalyn Viray.

At Robinsons Place Cainta, the first 50 couples spotted wearing identical items 2-6 p.m., Feb. 11, will win a special gift.

Mr. Love Notes Joe D' Mango will be at Robinsons Galleria on Feb. 11, 4-6 p.m., to read special love messages at Wave 89.1's Dedication Booth.

Call 6836100 locals 780, 782 and 137.

Asian landscapes in garden show

THE ANNUAL GARDEN show of the Philippine Horticultural Society Inc. (PHSI), "Horticulture 2007: Asian Gardens," is ongoing until Feb. 12 at the Manila Seedling Bank Environmental Center in Edsa corner Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

The show coincides with the 30th anniversary of the Manila Seedling Bank Foundation.

This year's show focuses on different landscaping styles of Asian countries. This year's exhibitors are Serapion Metilla, Vic Chin and Rap Eugenio, Reeya Luna, Willy Marbella, PHS community booth, PHSI Fern and Aroid Study Group, King Louie's Plants and Flowers, Philippine Orchid Society, University of the Philippines' Landscape Architecture Group, Natural Stone Society of the Philippines, Philippines Bonsai Society, Fairview Garden Club, Pinoy Aquatics, Flower Club of the Philippines, Manila Seedling Bank Foundation, Herpetological Society of the Philippines, Haribon Foundation, Cactus and Succulent Society of the Philippines, Chat Alejandro, and the Philippine Postal Museum and Library.

HOYA Siariae

GETTING the blessing of Most Rev. Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez

RETIRED Judge Hipolito and Alice dela Vega with family

Love more precious than ruby

By Gina dela Vega-Cruz
Contributor

NOT MANY FILIPINO families hold a grand celebration for the 40th wedding anniversary.

But my brother Jose Allan, my sister lawyer Sally dela Vega-Cabangis, and I and our respective husbands, Amboy and Gene, decided that the ruby anniversary was a good reason to celebrate—40 years of togetherness marked by tests and trials, and the triumph of love and respect that our parents had for each other.

And so our Daddy and Mommy—retired Metropolitan Trial Court Judge Hipolito dela Vega and the former Alice Tuazon—renewed their vows recently with Most Reverend Deogracias S. Iñiguez Jr., DD, of Caloocan officiating, and Reverend Fr. Emmanuel I. Cruz co-celebrating.

The ceremony was held at the Our Lady of Consolation Parish in Quezon City, witnessed by over 400 family members, friends and other relatives.

Red day

Mommy was beaming as she marched down the aisle, nodding in acknowledgment of everyone who was there. We joked afterward that she was like a politician campaigning.

She said she just happy—and confident—I added—because of the elegant gown by Edward Teng. The gown was red, fuchsia, magenta and pink, depending on the angle from which it was viewed.

Red was the color of the younger entourage (principal sponsors were asked to wear beige or ecru), and was all around us from the church to the Celebrity Club where the reception was held.

DADDY and Mommy: The years have not dimmed their tenderness toward each other.

Daddy and Mommy smiled and looked at each other often. The looks were more of the appreciative, grateful kind, recognizing faults and shortcomings but accepting them.

We celebrated that day a mature, full-grown and fully developed love—older but nonetheless sweet, less demonstrative but affectionate.

We made the Prayers of the Faithful, that part of the Holy Mass that enjoins the community to pray together for special intentions, a little different. Young couples recited the special intentions for Daddy and Mommy. Each couple recited a prayer.

The final prayer was said in cute singsong manner by an *apo* of the ruby celebrators, my 8-year-old daughter Gilena Ingrid Samantha.

Something in common

Principal sponsors or witnesses, my parents' contemporaries, had a common denominator—their own marriages have survived the test of time. They were nearing or were past their own 40th wedding anniversary.

One of the principal sponsors, our beloved family doctor Antonio B. Fortuna, said the roster proved that good and lasting marriages, contrary to belief, were not out of vogue.

The program started with two audio-visual presentations. One paid tribute to "the woman who captivated the heart of our Leopoldo Salcedo-lookalike Bulakeño, Judge Hipolito dela Vega." With the song "She" playing in the background, the AVP presented photographs of our mom from her childhood to her youth.

The classic "Moon River" was the background music to the photo story of the couple's love. My 12-year old son Gianno Isaac read a Tagalog poem I especially composed for the occasion. It told of his grandparents' love story, from how they met to the secrets of their marriage's longevity.

Speeches

My ebullient and bright aunt, Pampanga Judge Ofelia T. Pinto, made everyone laugh. Her delightful sense of humor is a trait shared by my mom. I wondered if their being Visayans, known for their love of life and merriment, had anything to do with it.

My sister Sally, a lawyer and former vice mayor of Bocaue, Bulacan, then spoke. She was a champion extemporaneous speaker during her high school and college days, a skill that undoubtedly served her well in politics.

Sally always touches hearts with her speeches and the ruby anniversary of our parents was no exception. People were reduced to tears as she recounted the sacrifices our dad and mom made for us.

Two hearts united in their youth and pledged to form so strong a bond. They nurtured a family against all odds. They have honored the commitment they made on when they wed. And the love our dad and mom still have for each other 40 years after their wedding was much more precious than ruby.

The author is a PR practitioner, television/radio program host and news anchor.

> We celebrated a mature, full-grown and fully developed relationship—older but nonetheless sweet

THE "APOS" were just as excited as their *lolo* and *lola*.

EMILY'S POST
Emily Marcelo

Pining for high-school sweetheart

DEAR EMILY,

I met my first boyfriend in high school and we became serious after graduation. When my family left for the United States, we officially became an item and communicated by long distance.

When I came home for the first time after four years, he told me he wanted to have an open relationship. I didn't like the idea of him with other women though I knew it was happening. I was always faithful to him. We broke up although I still loved him.

When I went back to the US, I met another man. I told him I had just ended a relationship and wasn't ready for another but he was very persistent. On the rebound, I went out with him. He knew I was still in love with my old boyfriend but he said he was okay with it.

Then I got pregnant. We got married because he loved me and I didn't want the baby to be born out of wedlock. We didn't tell anyone until I was about to give birth. We lived our lives "normally" since then.

I worked hard to try to forget my ex and hoped that time would heal me. It's been almost seven years since my ex and I broke up but I still love him and can't get him out of my mind.

I just had another baby with my husband but I can't seem to move on. I regret breaking up with my ex and I regret getting pregnant and getting stuck with a man I don't love.

Don't get me wrong. My husband is a good, loving husband and father to our children. We got married while still in college and went through financial hardship for a while.

Now that my husband is a doctor, money is not a problem anymore. Though other people think we have a "perfect" marriage, I am still lonely. I long for my ex every day and wish that I told him how I felt. He recently got married and that was a little tough to bear, although we've been apart for so long.

I don't know what I can do. I somehow feel that the only way to forget him is to tell him how I feel. I have planned on doing that for years, but I don't want to make a fool of myself. I wanted to bare my soul last year when I went home but the opportunity didn't arise.

Now I fear I'll be miserable for the rest of my life. My husband would never let me leave him and I know I could never leave my children. I have a seemingly happy life but my sorrow is eating me up.

I also think it's not fair to my husband to be with someone who is not in love with him. I am an educated woman and I don't think I'm stupid, but I don't know what to do. My mind tells me to just forget him but my heart can't let go.

CAN'T MOVE ON

Intelligence has absolutely nothing to do with the dictates of the heart. Often, those who have brains are the most foolish in love. They are fearless, obstinate and crazy, emboldened by blind passion. Clearly, you're one of them!

You can't move on because you are so wound up about this ex-future love. But did you ever consider he probably didn't love you as much during all the years you two were an "item?"

If he was, he wouldn't have suggested "open relationship," ever! He would have hounded you to the ends of the world until he got you to marry him.

It seems to me it has been a one-way traffic for the longest time. Though you're still blinded by the intensity of your passion, he is just a dead star in this scenario, meaning there's not an ounce of heat anymore from him.

You've been gazing longingly at your ex from the backdoor of your mind imagining that the grass where he is would be so much greener! Well, he ain't there anymore, and probably never was, kid!

Had you written that you broke his heart irreparably when you got married and that he's moving heaven and earth to get you back, I would have applauded this romantic gesture no matter how late, because it could have meant the triumph of love!

But, it's dead, finito, kaput—from his side of the firmament. How sad that all your tears, your loneliness, your longing for him just went down the drain—that it was all for naught.

But you're not even half a loser in this picture, if you'll just shift your attention to someone, even for a little while. Try to look again at this man—your husband—who has loved you despite your inadequacies, and really see him for the first time. He has been good to you and has borne being alone with his feelings for you all these years.

Isn't it time you gave him a chance and redefined your concept of love before it's too late? Some juvenile emotions grow sticky, romantic, and often mushy with age, "present company"—meaning you—included.

Take off your blinders already and be an active participant in the real world around you.

Call your ex to cleanse you of all these toxins he has wrought upon you—never mind if you'll look, feel and act foolish in the process. Just don't drag four lives into the mire—yours, your husband's and your two young kids.

Yours are self-inflicted wounds and you're not even getting any sympathy or notice from this ex! Give it one last cry, one last scream, one last lash of the whip if you wish. Chuck him, as he did you.

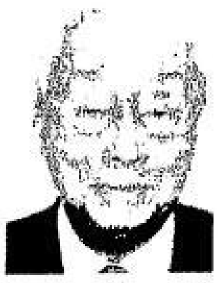
Then, get up and never look back. Ever.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

PURELY PERSONAL
Josephine Darang

Bikol awardees give back to their birthplaces

SUPREME Court Justice Leonardo Quisumbing from Uson, Masbate



DR. PATRICIO Lim, awardee for business entrepreneurship

LAWYER Loida Nicolas-Lewis, native of Sorsogon and founder of Lewis College

WE CANNOT WRITE ABOUT ALL 17 recipients of the First Urgullo kan Bikol Awards at the same time, but we can mention a few now.

It is heartwarming to know that the great men and women have not forgotten their places of birth.

Supreme Court Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, for instance, who was born in Uson, Masbate, saw to it that the province was connected to its neighbors by ferry. As deputy executive secretary of former President Fidel Ramos, he encouraged ship owners to open "ro-ro" (roll on, roll off) routes like Lucena-Masbate-Lucena, and Cebu-Masbate-Cebu.

It helped that he was chair of the National Ferry Committee created by Executive Order 340.

Justice Quisumbing taught and practiced law for almost 15 years. He was dean of the Northwestern University College of Law in Laoag City for three years, and was in government for 21 years.

Before becoming Supreme Court justice in 1998, he was secretary of labor and employment.

As we said before, Justice Quisumbing inspired the formation of the St. Tarcicius Shoe Shine Boys in BF Homes Parañaque.

Eighteen boys from squatters areas received shoe-shine boxes and uniforms from the Knights of Columbus after six months of training under Tony Medina. The Legion of Mary in Our Lord of the Resurrection parish gave them catechism and prepared them for their First Holy Communion.

The project of the Faithful Heroes Shining Times, Inc. aims to give hope to poor youth and show them the future can still be bright.

The boys may be found 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday, in front of the Tropical Hut and Delicioso restaurants and La Rosa Store on Aguirre St., BF Homes.

Love Pinoy

Loida Nicolas-Lewis of Sorsogon loves everything Filipino, made by Filipinos. She has one dream and that is to put up a fresh meat processing plant in Masbate and Samar.

Right now, there is one in Naga City under the auspices of TLC Beatrice Foods (Philippines) of which she is chair and CEO. She also founded the Lewis College in Sorsogon being run by her sister-in-law, Edith Nicolas.

Loida, a graduate of the University of the Philippines College of Law, comes from a family of entrepreneurs. Her father, Francisco Nicolas, started in 1937 Nicfur, one of the country's earliest furniture manufacturers.

Until October 2006, she was national chair of the National Federation of Filipino-American Associations, an advocacy group in the United States.

20,000 jobs

People in Bicol are lucky. Dr. Patricio L. Lim, founding chair of the Peninsula Manila Hotel, has given 20,000 Bicolanos jobs in his companies. He chairs 13 companies.

P. L. Lim, 92, comes from Uson, Masbate, which he hopes to visit again after 65 years.

Aside from helping several foundations, Dr. Lim is chair of the Divine Word Missions and a board member of the Metrobank Foundation, which gives him the opportunity to help alleviate the lives of the poor. He was conferred the degree Doctor of Humanities Honoris Causa by the Mariano Marcos State University in 1982. At 92, Dr. Lim is still sprightly and active.

'Ina' visits

Felix N. Imperial, Jr., restoration architect of the Intramuros Administration for 25 years and husband of my friend Alegria Albano Imperial, was "visited" by Our Lady of Peñafrancia during his confinement in 1991 at the Manila Doctors Hospital for a near fatal stroke.

According to Guia Albano, Felix considered it an incomparable reward and blessing.

In 1993, when he was again sick, Fr. Gene Rafal, then parish priest of Our Lady Queen of Peace in Queen's Row, Bacoor, visited Felix and blessed his marriage to Guia. Fr. Rafal then asked him to design the Shrine of Our Lady.

After drawing the design of the church and the Adoration Chapel, Felix told Guia: "This is my last assignment." He passed away two months later of heart attack.

Guia e-mailed from Canada, where she is now staying: "This recognition from the Bicolanos not only adds to what he has already gained, but also rectifies what he always felt apologetic for, as he used to say, 'I feel the most un-Bicolano Imperial.'"

Statue

Although he deserved it, no statue of the late Col. Bonny Serrano, the most decorated Filipino soldier who fought in the Korean War, has been built.

But Tony Medina, when he was provincial board member, authored a resolution converting the Philippine Constabulary Camp in Masbate City into the Col. Bonny Serrano Camp.

The colonel's wife, Cora Real, a famous Visayan actress and singer before, will receive the posthumous award.

The First Orgullo kan Bikol Awards will be given at 7 p.m., Feb. 8, at the Manila Hotel Centennial Room. For tickets, text 0906-2283750 or 0917-8242925.

Soup kitchen

The Rotary Club of Parañaque Southeast is determined to put up the first-ever Mobile Soup Kitchen in the Archdiocesan Shrine of Nuestra Señora de Guia and poorer sections of the city.

It is organizing a fund-raising fashion show by Pitoy Moreno, "Philippine Costumes and Inspirations," on Feb. 8, at the Shangri-La Makati Hotel. Cocktails will be at 6 p.m. followed by the show at 7 p.m.

The fundraiser will also benefit the livelihood projects of the Rotary Club, of which Dr. Techie de la Cruz is charter president. Text 0918-9270985 or e-mail rcpsetechie@yahoo.com.

Healing Mass

Fr. Diwane Cacao will officiate in the healing Mass at 6 p.m., Feb. 15, at Sto. Domingo Church, Quezon Avenue. Pro-Life Philippines and the Blessed Margaret Castello Movement are organizers.

Catch the Sto. Niño exhibit at the Camarin of Sta. Ana Church that ends today.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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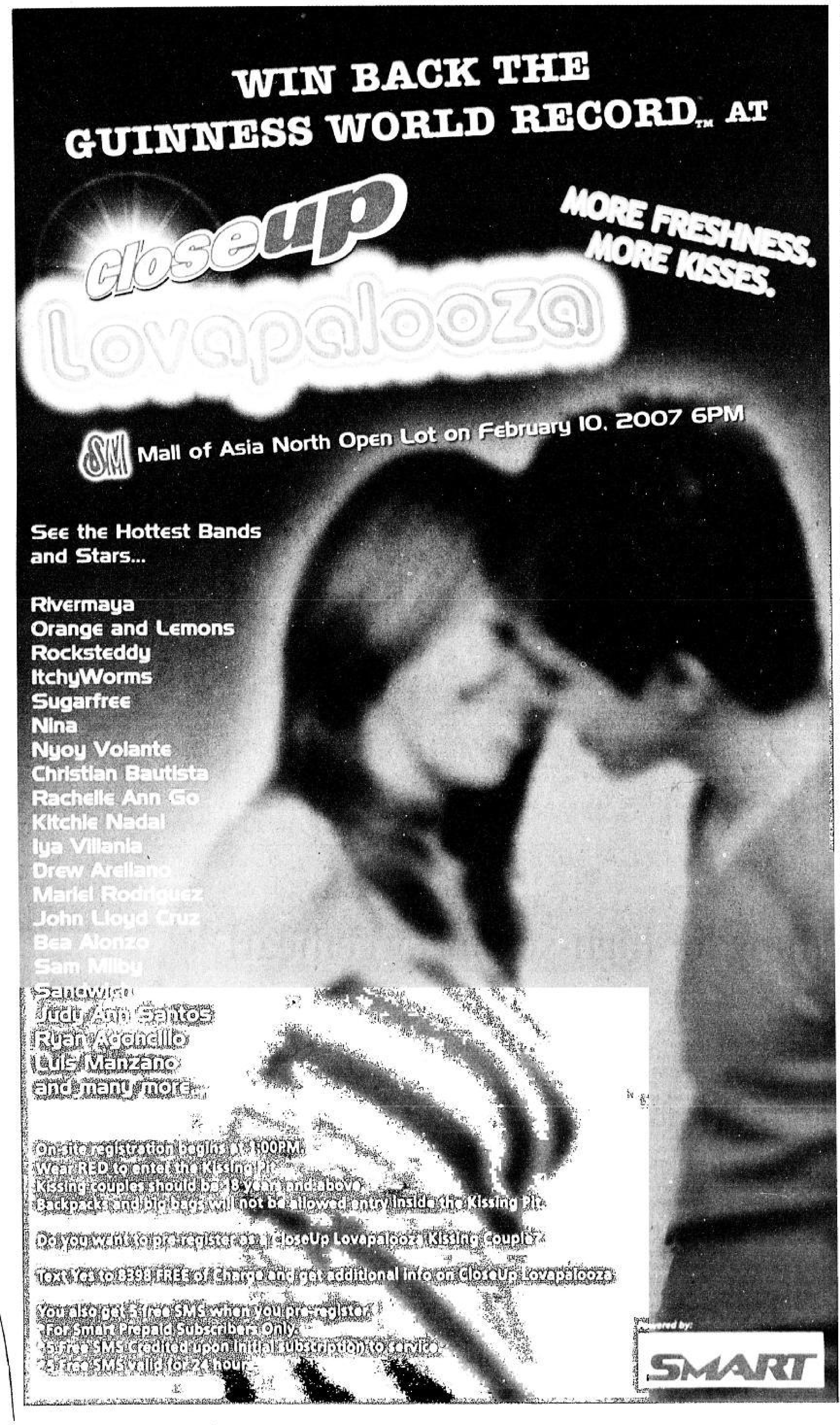

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LEA remembers working with her idol: "She never threw her weight around."

JULIE ANDREWS is the US Screen Actors Guild's Lifetime Achievement awardee this year. AFP

TV without mercy

By Nini Valera

TWO FINALISTS ON "STARSTRUCK THE NEXT LEVEL" were the picture of anxiety on center stage last Sunday before the show's hosts announced that it was a non-elimination round and that all 10 remaining contenders had survived the past week's challenges.

Stef Prescott howled unabashedly on national television, looking as if she would faint, while Mart Escudero wiped away her tears.

They were the two who remained on stage after three

TV/ G4

Lea Salonga in Julie Andrews' slippers

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

TONY- AND LARRY-WINNING Filipino singer-actress Lea Salonga is "over the moon" about filling in the shoes—actually the glass slippers—of Dame Julie Andrews, recipient of the Life Achievement honor in this year's US Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Lea remembers being awed by Dame Julie's humility when they worked together on a 1992 Hollywood recording of Rodgers & Hammerstein's "The King and I."

Thus, Lea is understandably ecstatic over reprising "Cinderella," a role originated by the British superstar. Lea is joining "Cinderella" on an Asian tour next year after her run as Fantine in "Les Misérables" on Broadway.

She didn't have to audition for "Cinderella" (as she did for "Les Miz"), she said, especially since good friend Bobby Garcia is directing the show...

Garcia is also directing Rodgers & Hammerstein's "The King and I," which commences an Asian tour in April.

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

The last time Lea was in an R&H musical was for "Flower Drum Song" on Broadway in 2002.

What was it like, landing the role of "Cinderella"?

Well, it wasn't exactly something I landed since I was in discussions with (the production company) Broadway Asia for a while, even before I got "Les Miz." It was something cooking for a bit, and now it can be announced. It feels wonderful that we can talk about it more publicly now!

How does it feel? Are you excited? Daunted?

I can't say that I'm daunted necessarily, but I am very excited! It'll be yet another Rodgers & Hammerstein show, and their music is always beautiful. I can't wait to start, but first, "Les Miz."

We begin rehearsals for "Cinderella" in July 2008 and start the run in Manila in August.

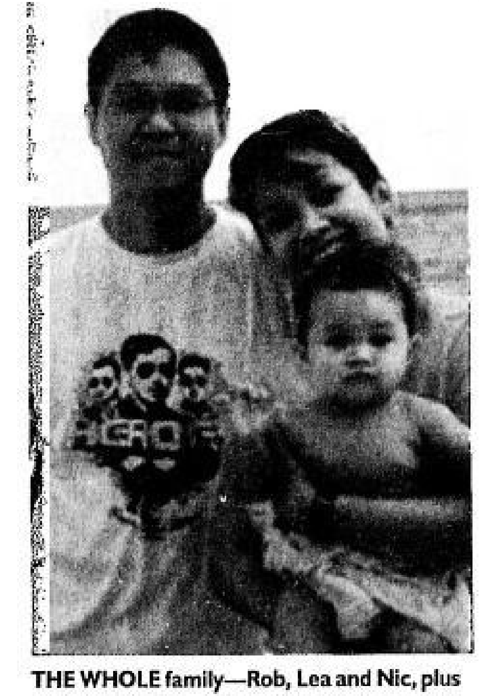
How different is performing in the Philippines?

Performing for the home crowd is always exciting and can be a bit intimidating. Philippine audiences have high expectations, I feel, so I try to do my best always.

What is it like taking over a role originated by Dame Julie Andrews?

It feels wonderful! It isn't one of her more

LEA/ G4



THE WHOLE family—Rob, Lea and Nic, plus grandma Ligaya—is going on the Asian tour.

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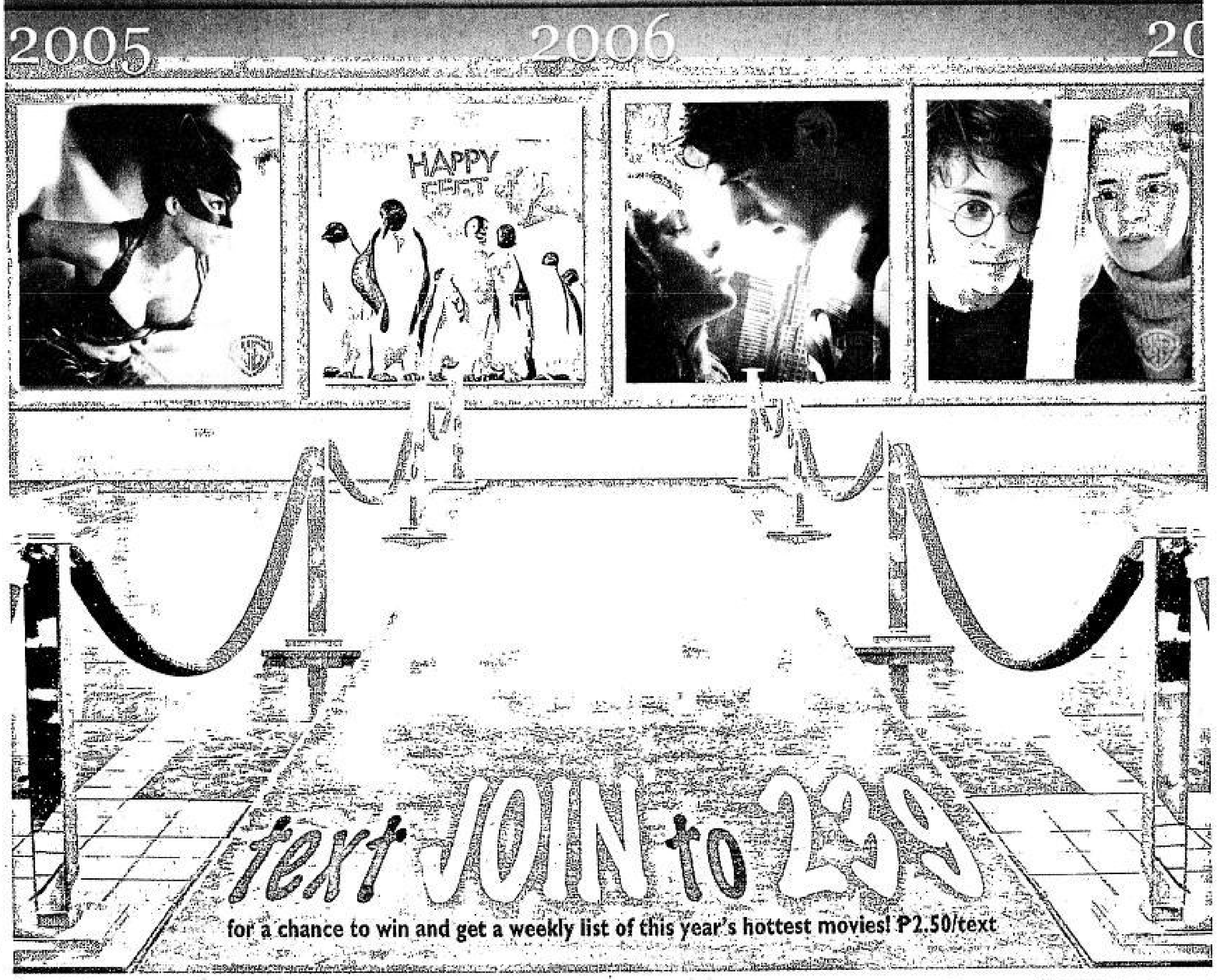

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2 APOCALYPTO
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4 CHARLOTTE's WEB
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8 AGENT X44
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 APOCALYPTO
2 NIGHT at the MUSEUM
3 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
4 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
1:30 3:55 6:20 8:40

2 APOCALYPTO
2:40 5:35 8:30

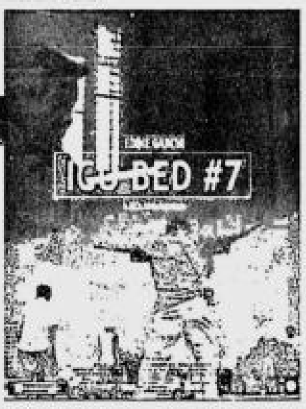
3 NIGHT at the MUSEUM
1:15 3:45 6:15 8:40

4 BLOOD and CHOCOLATE
12:55 3:20 5:45 6:10

CHECK THIS OUT ▶▶

indieSine

Featured Film of the week



starring: EDDIE GARCIA, ANGEL AQUINO, NONIE BUENCAMINO. IRMA ADLAWAN

WINNER:
Cinemalaya - Best Director
Best Performance - Eddie Garcia

Don Carlos Palanca Literature Award

exclusively at
Robinsons Movieworld GALLERIA

MTRCB Rating: R13

STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 NIGHT at the MUSEUM
2 FRAGILE
3 AGENT X44
4 BLOOD DIAMOND

LIPA (043) 757-3664 / (043) 312-5870

1 DECK THE HALLS
2 AGENT X44
3 LITTLE CHILDREN
4 FRAGILE

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2125 / (046) 416-4332

1 ARTHUR and the INVISIBLES
2 APOCALYPTO
3 AGENT X44
4 NIGHT at the MUSEUM

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 APOCALYPTO
2 AGENT X44
3 DECK THE HALLS
4 NIGHT at the MUSEUM

IMUS (046) 875-3838 / (046) 471-8188

1 APOCALYPTO
2 SHAOLIN vs. EVIL DEAD 2
3 NIGHT at the MUSEUM
4 AGENT X44

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 / (045) 961-5270

1 DECK THE HALLS
2 SPIRIT TRAP
3 AGENT X44
4 GRIFFIN and PHOENIX
5 NIGHT at the MUSEUM
6 APOCALYPTO

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / (034) 441-0459

1 BLOOD DIAMOND
2 NIGHT at the MUSEUM
3 ROB-B-HOOD
4 A GOOD YEAR
5 AGENT X44
6 FEAST

ILOILO (033) 338-8070

1 BLOOD DIAMOND
2 AGENT X44
3 A GOOD YEAR
4 NIGHT at the MUSEUM
5 GRIFFIN and PHOENIX
6 ROB-B-HOOD

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IndieSine, Robinsons Galleria
a WILL FREDO film
COMPOUND
KILALA MO SILA
mossimo

MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

MOVIE GUIDE

NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX

1 APOCALYPTO
2 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 BABEL

PREMIERE

BLOOD & CHOCOLATE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 APOCALYPTO
3 AGENT X 44
4 BLOOD CHOCOLATE

starmall EDSA/SHAW

(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

3 ROB-B-HOOD
4 BLOOD CHOCOLATE
5 RESRVED

metropolis star cinema

www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504286, 5433894

1 AGENT X 44
2 BLOOD CHOCOLATE
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 APOCALYPTO

THEATRES

1 BLOOD DIAMOND
2 AGENT X 44
3 SAW - 3

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC

Pacific Mall Lucena Tel. (042) 660-5371

AGENT X 44
BLOOD DIAMOND
RESRVED
RESRVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA

(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 BABEL
2 KASAL KASALI KASALO
3 BLOOD DIAMOND
4 APOCALYPTO
5 BLOOD CHOCOLATE
6 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
7 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
8 SAW - 3
9 ROB-B-HOOD
10 AGENT X 44

Blue Wave MARIKINA

Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sta. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 BLOOD CHOCOLATE
2 APOCALYPTO
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 RESERVED

SUPER CINERAMA

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 APOCALYPTO
3 AGENT X 44
4 BLOOD CHOCOLATE
5 LITTLE CHILDREN

MARKETPLACE

Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1 SAW - 3
2 SPIRIT TRAP
3 SUPER NOYPI
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA 2000

(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 AGENT X 44
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 BLOOD CHOCOLATE

Center Mall Cinema

Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449349)

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 BLOOD DIAMOND

Jade Cinema

(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 APOCALYPTO
3 GRIFFEN & PHOENIX
4 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD

Centre Plaza Cinema

(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 AGENT X 44
2 ROB-B-HOOD

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
2 APOCALYPTO
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 BLOOD & CHOCOLATE

CINEMA 2000

Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1 AGENT X 44
2 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
3 BLOOD DIAMOND
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall

(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix

(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1 MANO PO - 5
2 AGENT X 44
3 ERAGON

Cinema 2000 Metrotown

(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729

1 ROB-B-HOOD
2 AGENT X 44
3 SAW - 3
4 BLOOD DIAMOND

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320

1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 AGENT X 44
3 SAW - 3

Cinema 2000 Waltermart

(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867736

1 AGENT X 44
2 MATAKOT KA SA KARMA

Lianas Cinema

(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 ERAGON
2 KAMASUTRA

Lianas Cinema

(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 TENACIOUS-D
2 BOGBOG SARADO
3 PARAISO SA GUBAT
4 FRAGILE

Lianas MovieCity

(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 BOA
2 BEDROOM SECRET
3 AGENT X 44
4 BLOOD DIAMOND
5 KARIBAL

Fiesta World Mall

(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

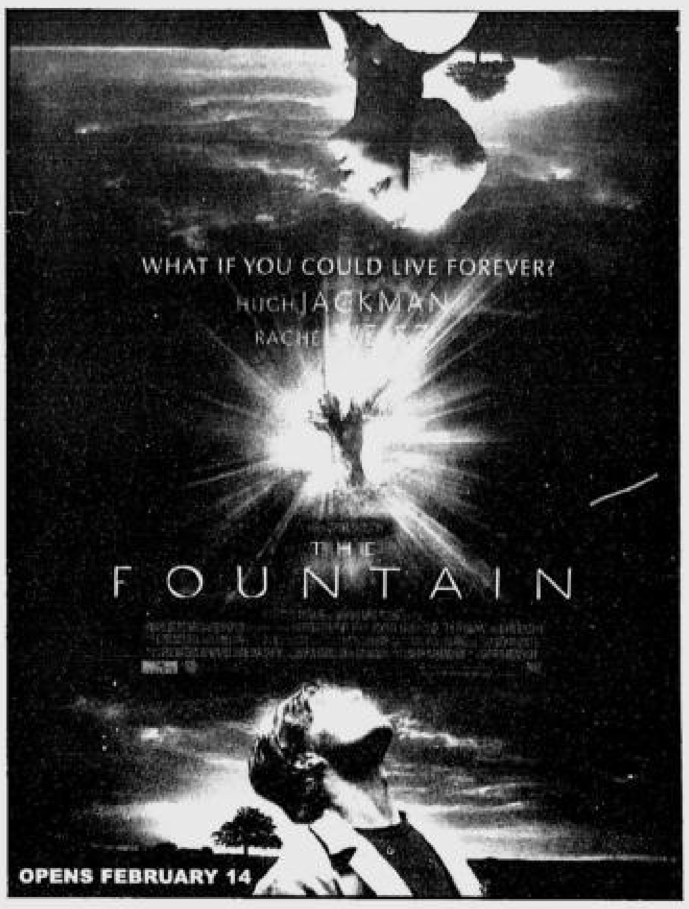
1 LITTLE CHILDREN
2 AGENT X 44
3 KARELASYON
4 FRAGILE

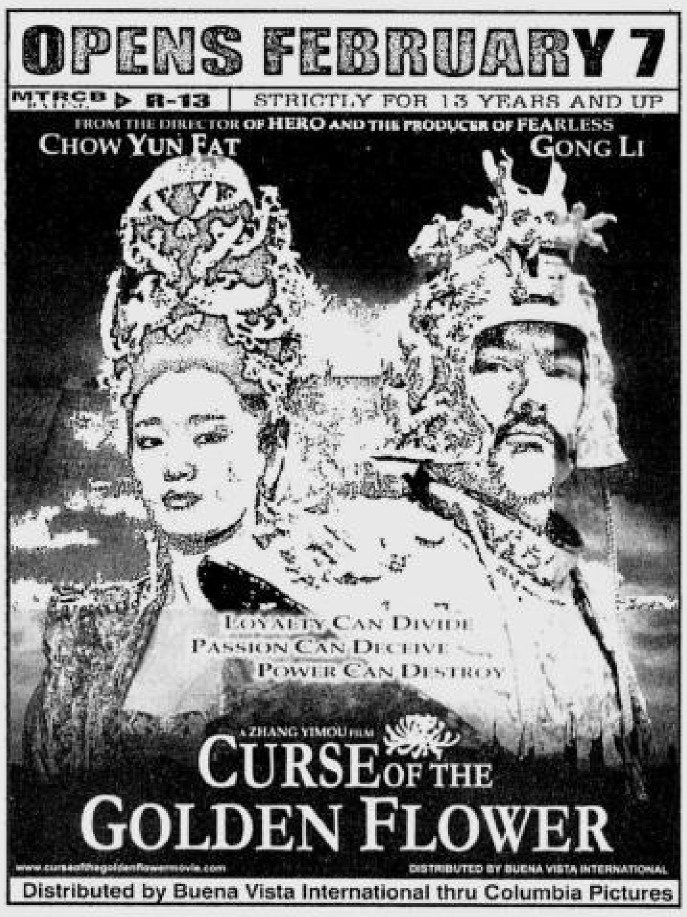
Berma Cinema

(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 BLOOD CHOCOLATE
2 KAMASUTRA

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE


WHAT IF YOU COULD LIVE FOREVER?
HUGH JACKMAN
RACHE
THE FOUNTAIN
OPENS FEBRUARY 14


OPENS FEBRUARY 7
MTRCB RATING ▶ R-13
STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS AND UP
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GONG LI
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PASSION CAN DECEIVE
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DISTRIBUTED BY BUENA VISTA INTERNATIONAL

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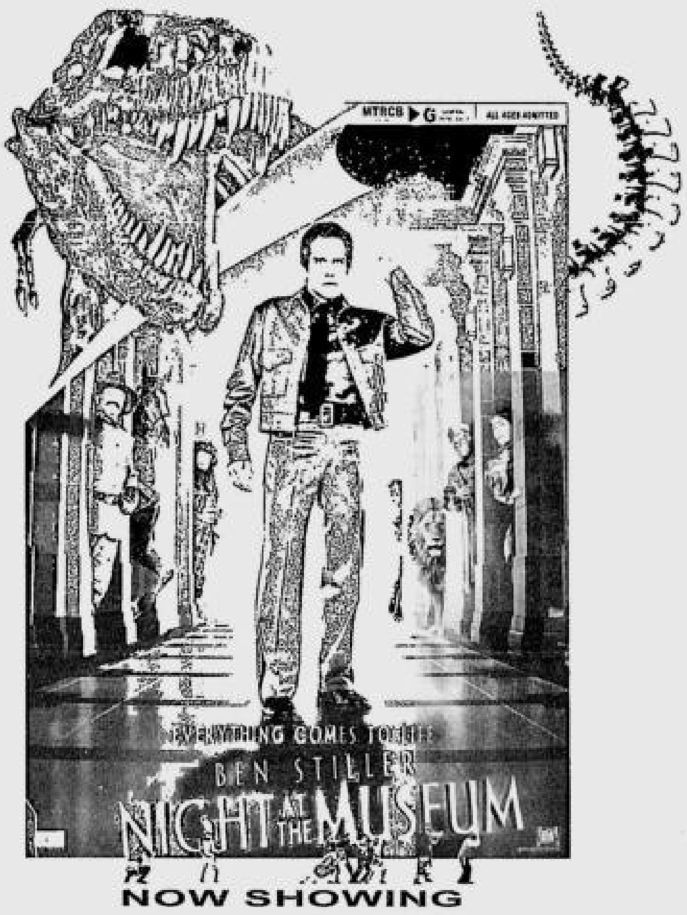
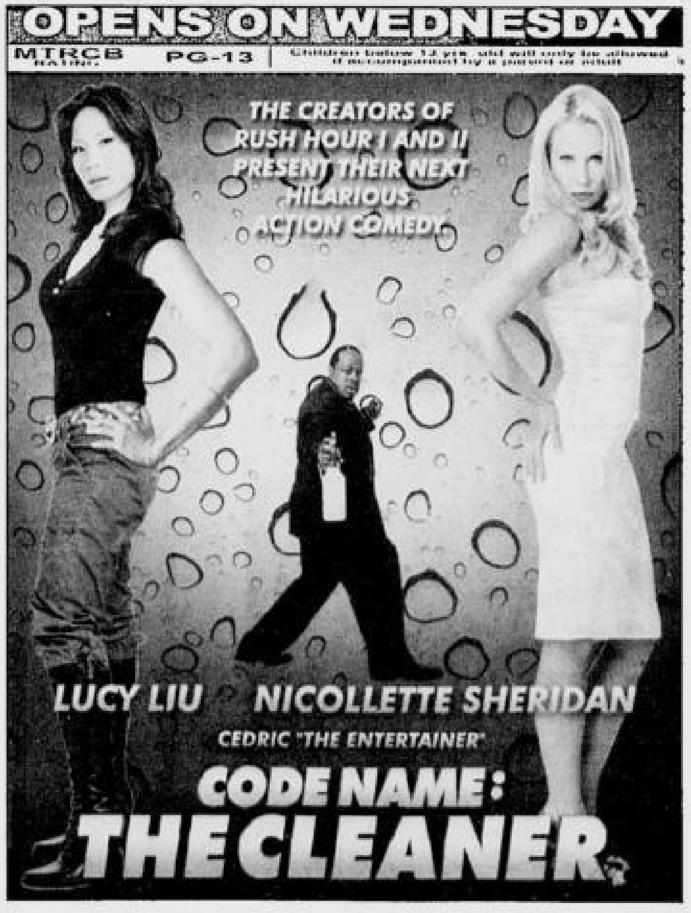

MTRCB ▶ G
ALL AGES ADMITTED
EVERYTHING COMES TO LIFE
BEN STILLER
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
NOW SHOWING


OPENS ON WEDNESDAY
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult
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LUCY LIU
NICOLLETTE SHERIDAN
CEDRIC "THE ENTERTAINER"
CODE NAME: THE CLEANER

CHOOSE YOUR Valentine SHOW

IT'S THAT TIME OF year. And so, once again, we are helping you pick the best show for that special date, by asking the concert artists who are going onstage what they have in store for audiences.

Jimmy Bondoc

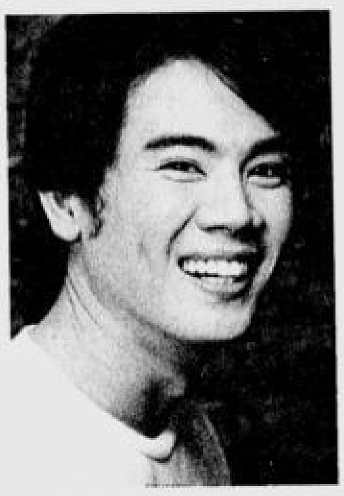
"Heartfelt," Feb. 14, Club O (formerly Dish), ABS-CBN Complex. Call 911-5555, 413-0614, 413-0603.

When you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

If I'm in a relationship, I go on the normal romantic dates that other couples go through. If I'm not, *wala lang*. I stay home. Or work. Or go on group "dates."

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you've ever experienced?

I can't remember. My last romantic relationship was a long time ago.



JIMMY BONDOC

She was in what she called an "on-and-off" relationship. I finally decided it wasn't worth it.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

On this day, everyone wants to feel youthful, like a teenager. If you're with someone who makes you feel that way, that's the best.

Who's your fantasy date?

Michelle Wie, the Korean-American golfer. Locally, maybe Roxanne Guinoo. She's cute, but too young for me. It's just a fantasy, right?

What's the most romantic love song?

"Someone To Watch Over Me"

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

I'd watch Paolo Santos. *Barkada, e.* And he's really good.

Why should we watch your show?

I'll be singing mostly original songs. No revivals, remakes, etc. If only to perpetuate originality and creativity, you should watch my show. Plus, I'm looking for a girlfriend. *Bayani San Diego Jr.*

Nina

"Swept Away," Feb. 14; 7:30 p.m., Manila Pavilion Coral Ballroom

When you're not doing a concert, how do you celebrate Valentine's Day?

NINA

If I'm loveless, I spend it with friends. But since I'm doing a show on that day, advance celebration *na lang* with Nyoy (Volante, her singer-boyfriend).

What's the most romantic Valentine's Day you ever experienced?

A simple dinner. What is important is you spend it with your special someone even if it's just at the *turo-turo*.

What's an ideal Valentine date?

Maybe a candlelight dinner or dinner by the sea.

Who's your fantasy date?

None. *Si* Nyoy *lang*.

What's the most romantic love song?

"This Never Happened Before," by Paul McCartney.

If you were not doing a show, who would you watch?

I don't know the other shows.

Why should we watch your show?

I'll be singing a mosaic of love songs—happy, sad, songs for healing a broken heart and, most of all, about love for the One Above.

* * *

Tonight

"Melanj on Ice" at the **Ninoy Aquino Stadium.** Call 911-5555

Tomorrow

"Melanj on Ice" at the **Ninoy Aquino Stadium.** Call 911-5555

February 6

"Melanj on Ice" at the **Ninoy Aquino Stadium.** Call 911-5555

The Groove at **Merk's Bar** and Bistro, Greenbelt 3. Call 757-4720.

February 7

Agot Isidro in "Back to Basics" at the **Music Museum**

"Melanj on Ice" at the **Ninoy Aquino Stadium.** Call 911-5555

Eddie K, Richard Merk and **Judith Banal** at **Merk's Bar** and Bistro, Greenbelt 3. Call 757-4720.

February 8

Agot Isidro in "Back to Basics" at the **Music Museum**

"Melanj on Ice" at the **Ninoy Aquino Stadium.** Call 911-5555

The Groove at **Merk's Bar** and Bistro, Greenbelt 3. Call 757-4720.

February 9

The CompanY in "An Everlasting Love" at the **Hyatt Hotel and Casino.** Call 911-5555.

"Melanj on Ice" at the **Ninoy Aquino Stadium.** Call 911-5555

This week through the years

DID YOU KNOW...

ENTERTAINMENT flashbacks (the week of Feb. 4-10):

1964: The Beatles made their first live TV appearance in the United States on "The Ed Sullivan Show."

1971: The Osmonds received their first gold record, for "One Bad Apple."

1972: Paul Simon released his first solo single following his breakup with Art Garfunkel. The song, "Mother and Child Reunion," became a top five hit.

1983: Singer Karen Carpenter died of cardiac arrest in Downey, California, at age 32. She had suffered from the eating disorder anorexia nervosa.

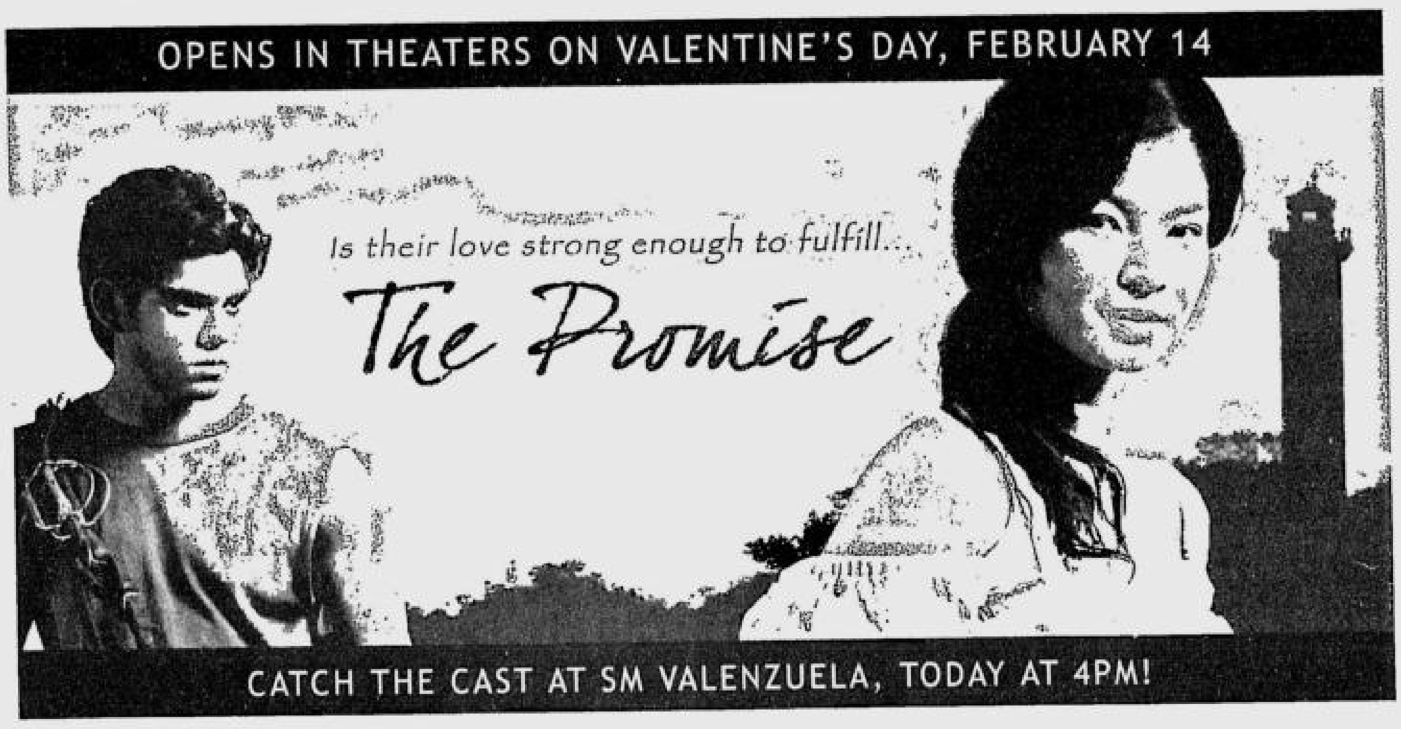
1987: Liberace died at his home in Palm Springs, California, of AIDS-related complications. He was 67.

1990: Paula Abdul became the first female artist to have an album stay in the top 10 for over 50 weeks. It was her debut album, "Forever Your Girl."

1997: "The Simpsons" became the longest-running prime-time animated series, beating the record previously held by "The Flintstones."

2001: Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman announced their separation after 11 years of marriage.

2006: Sly and the Family Stone reunited for a performance at the Grammys. Stone had not performed live in 19 years.



OPENS IN THEATERS ON VALENTINE'S DAY, FEBRUARY 14
Is their love strong enough to fulfill...
The Promise
CATCH THE CAST AT SM VALENZUELA, TODAY AT 4PM!

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729 7777

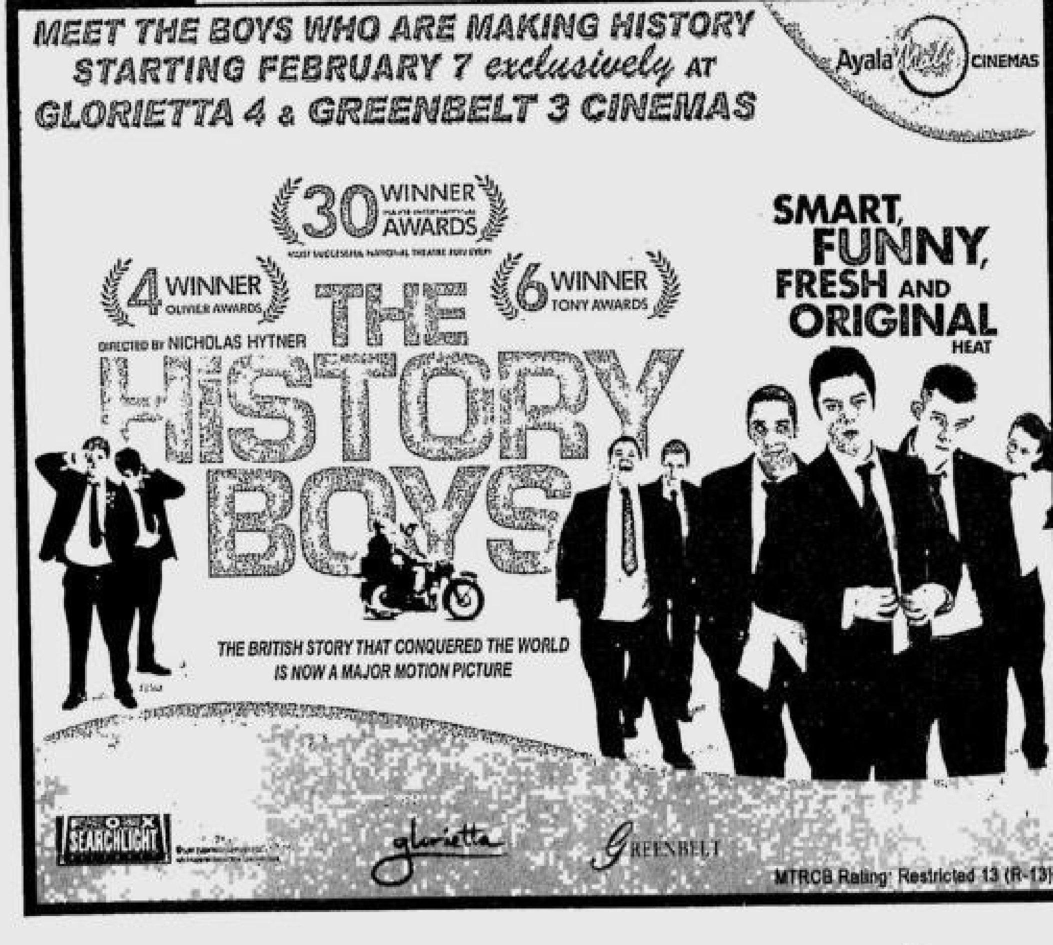
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
G1 GLORIETTA 1	APOCALYPTO	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	BLOOD & CHOCOLATE	AGENT X44			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	CHARLOTTE'S WEB	BABEL	THX APOCALYPTO GUARANTEED SEATS	HOLLYWOODLAND	STRANGER THAN FICTION	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	BLOOD & CHOCOLATE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	APOCALYPTO	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	THX NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM GUARANTEED SEATS	THX APOCALYPTO GUARANTEED SEATS	HOLLYWOODLAND GUARANTEED SEATS	BABEL GUARANTEED SEATS	CHARLOTTE'S WEB GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX APOCALYPTO GUARANTEED SEATS	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	CHARLOTTE'S WEB	BLOOD & CHOCOLATE	BABEL		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	APOCALYPTO	CHARLOTTE'S WEB	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM	GRIFFIN & PHOENIX			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	APOCALYPTO	BLOOD & CHOCOLATE	CHARLOTTE'S WEB	AGENT X44	NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM		

At the Activity Center

Customer Service text hotline: 0917 6095900
Customer Service Numbers: Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 9pm
Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 9pm
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519

GLORIETTA	ALABANG TOWN CENTER
Photoworld Manila February 1 to 6, 2007	Celebrate the sweet life at the Town this Valentine's w/ MYMP Live! February 10, 2007
AYALA CENTER CEBU	**MARKET! MARKET!**
Philippine Arts Festival February 10, 2007	Plan Holder's Day February 5, 2007

GREENBELT	Greenbelt 5 Sneak Peak presents: Collection of Ana Rocha February 7 to 18, 2007
Onstage	Repertory Philippines presents SONG & DANCE at REP's Globe Theater - February 9 to March 4, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	CHINESE DIASPORA: Art Streams from the Mainland (six shows) February 15 to March 27, 2007 For inquiries, please call 757-7117 to 21 or visit www.ayalamuseum.org



MEET THE BOYS WHO ARE MAKING HISTORY STARTING FEBRUARY 7 *exclusively* AT GLORIETTA 4 & GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS
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glorietta
GREENBELT
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Ayala Center Cebu: (032) 232-0380
Market! Market!: 886 -7519

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Lea Salonga in Julie Andrews' . . .

From page G1

iconic roles (iconic meaning "The Sound of Music" or "Victor/Victoria"), but a beautiful performance nonetheless. I just wish to do justice to the role. That's all.

What are your memories of working with Dame Julie?

I just remember calling her "Miss Andrews," and her saying, "Please, call me Julie." I was floored at how "un-diva like" she was, that [for her] it was all about the work, and how great she was with everyone.

She never threw her weight around or played the "I'm famous" card—and she's one person that could and deserves to [do that]. She's down-to-earth, humble and grounded. Awesome.

How do you see Cinderella?

With a lot of humor and sweetness. But she isn't a simpering wallflower. I'd like to think there's some toughness beneath her sweet exterior.

What makes this project special and significant?

I guess it's significant in the sense that I have another opportunity to play an R&H leading lady. That's never *ever* a bad thing!

What is the challenge of doing an Asian tour? Will you bring Nic along? And your mom and hubby?

The challenge will be the moving around. I've never been on tour like this before, so it'll be something new for us. The family will definitely be coming along. I don't think I can be away from Nic for too long! A few days and I'll go nuts!

How cool is it playing Cinderella? It's something you can tell Nic someday, right?

Oh absolutely! She probably won't believe me until I show her pictures, though.

You have a new album out. Do you have favorites in this collection?

Yes, "Inspired," from Sony BMG. My favorite tracks are "Promise Me," "When the Winter's Gone" and "Who Are You?", but I enjoyed singing every song on the CD.

I love those three songs for different reasons. "Promise Me" has always just been a sentimental favorite. "When the Winter's Gone" because of how interesting it is, musically. And "Who Are You?" for its jazz influence. These songs are just really, really cool.

STEF PRESCOTT

TV without . . .

From page G1

others among the five lowest-ranking finalists were called back to the survivors' spot by hosts Jolina Magdangal, Dingdong Dantes and Raymond Gutierrez.

Backstage after the reality talent show's most dramatic episode so far, Prescott told INQUIRER Entertainment that she hadn't expected to land on the bottom list.

"I was best in singing and dancing (last week), and even best in acting," she said. "I don't believe I got fewer text votes than the others. But ... that's better than being in the bottom for lack of talent."

Eventually, Prescott said, "Okay *lang*. That's how it is; it's part of the test, and I was strong enough to take it."

Prepared

Asked why he looked almost cool, Escudero said he had prepared to leave "when it was announced that I was in the bottom five."

What did he feel after the announcement that it was a non-elimination round? "I went crazy," he said.

Jesi Corcuera, who landed in the lowest ranks again this week, was spared once more despite being voted off by six other contestants for being the weakest in last week's song and dance challenges.

She was used to being picked on, Corcuera told INQUIRER. Asked if she thought there was a gay vote, Corcuera, a self-confessed lesbian, just smiled.

Rough edge

Rich Asuncion, a Miss Tagbilaran before "Starstruck," was voted off by Jan Manual for her looks. Manual said Asuncion should join the Bb. Pilipinas tilt instead. Asuncion said that was "not personal—we're still friends."

The beauty queen showed a rough edge in a production number with Prescott and Manual. Their performance of "Call Me When You're Sober," by Evanescence impressed Starstruck council member Louie Ignacio who, for once, had nothing mean to say. "If I were to [rate you] based on this performance, you would all get perfect scores," he said.

Improved

Council member Lorna Tolentino similarly praised Corcuera, Escudero, Jewel Mische, and Kris Bernal, who performed an edgy dance number.

Aljur Abrenica, Prince Stefan, and Paulo Avelino each had a moment with "Chasing Cars," theme of "Grey's Anatomy."

Council member Douglas Quijano noted how much the group had improved. "The only thing you lack now is ambition," he told the boys.

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MTRCB Rating: G

METRO MANILA

SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0104
IMAX
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
11:00PM 1:20PM 3:40PM 6:00PM 8:20PM
Matinee Fee- P200 Primetime Fee- P250
1 DEJA VU
2 BLOOD DIAMOND
3 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
4 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
5 BABEL
6 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO/ AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH
PREMIERE CINEMA
AGENT X44
CENTERSTAGE
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
CINEMA 2
CHARLOTTE'S WEB
633-8976

SM NORTH EDSA 929-5452
1 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
2 DEJA VU
3 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO/ AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH
4 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
5 BABEL
6 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
7 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
8 BLOOD DIAMOND
9 AGENT X44
10 ROB-B-HOOD
11 ERAGON
12 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE

SM MEGACINEMA 633-1901
1 BABEL
2 ERAGON
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
5 DEJA VU
6 GRIFFIN & PHOENIX
7 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
8 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
9 AGENT X44
10 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
11 ROB-B-HOOD
12 ERAGON

SM CITY FAIRVIEW 935-0749
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 DEJA VU
3 ARTHUR AND THE INVISIBLES
4 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
5 ROB-B-HOOD
6 AGENT X44
7 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
8 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
9 ERAGON
10 KASAL, KASALI, KASALO
11 BLOOD DIAMOND
12 GRIFFIN & PHOENIX

SM CITY STA. MESA 716-1416
1 BLOOD AND CHOCOLATE
2 AGENT X44
3 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
4 CHARLOTTE'S WEB
5 ANNAPOLIS
6 ROB-B-HOOD
7 ERAGON
8 GRIDIRON GANG
9 BLOOD DIAMOND
10 DEJA VU

SM CITY SAN LAZARO 786-2488
1 NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM
2 ERAGON
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12 AGENT X44

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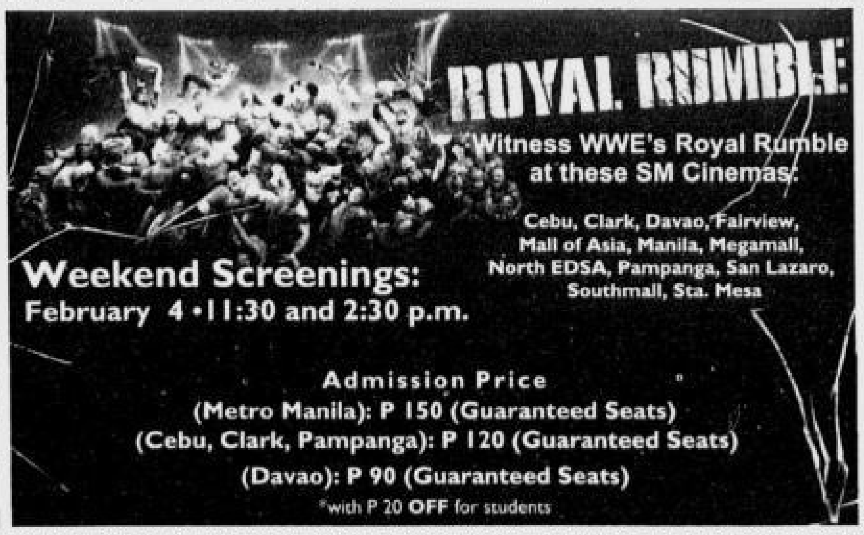

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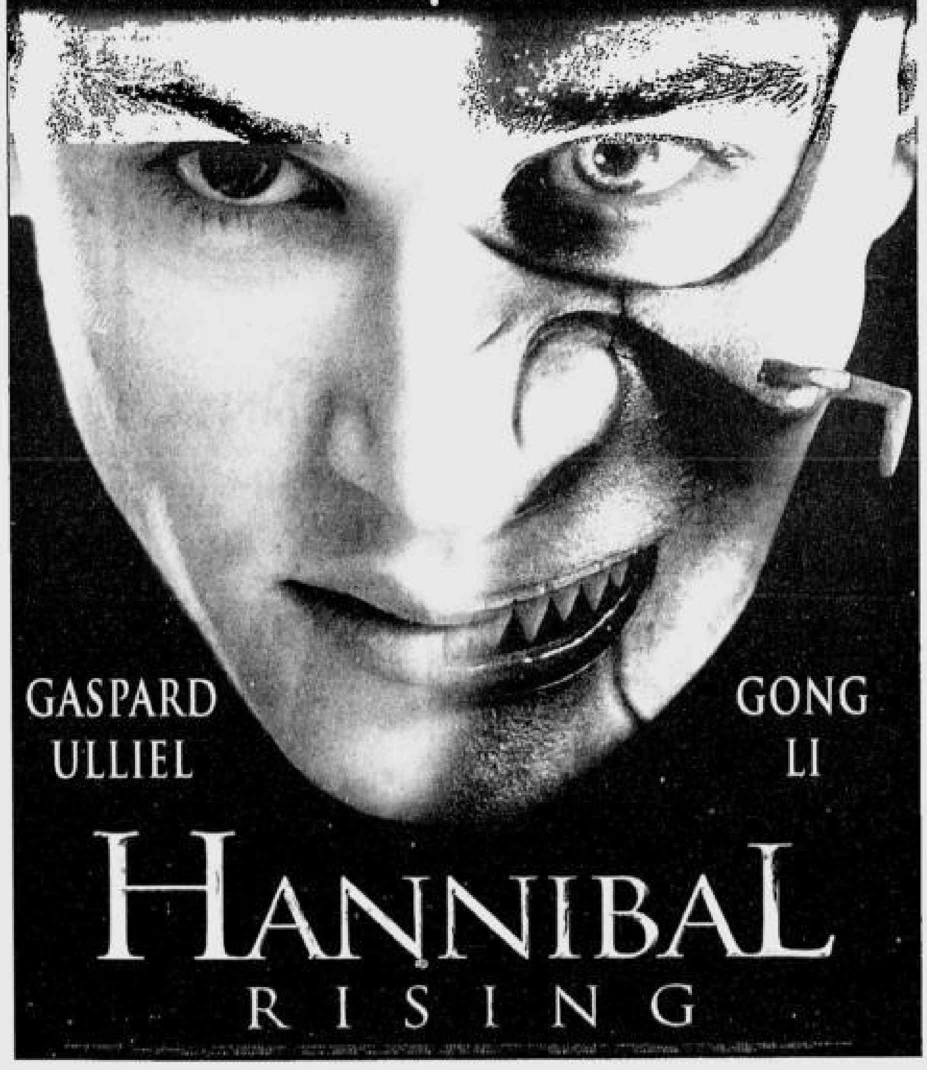

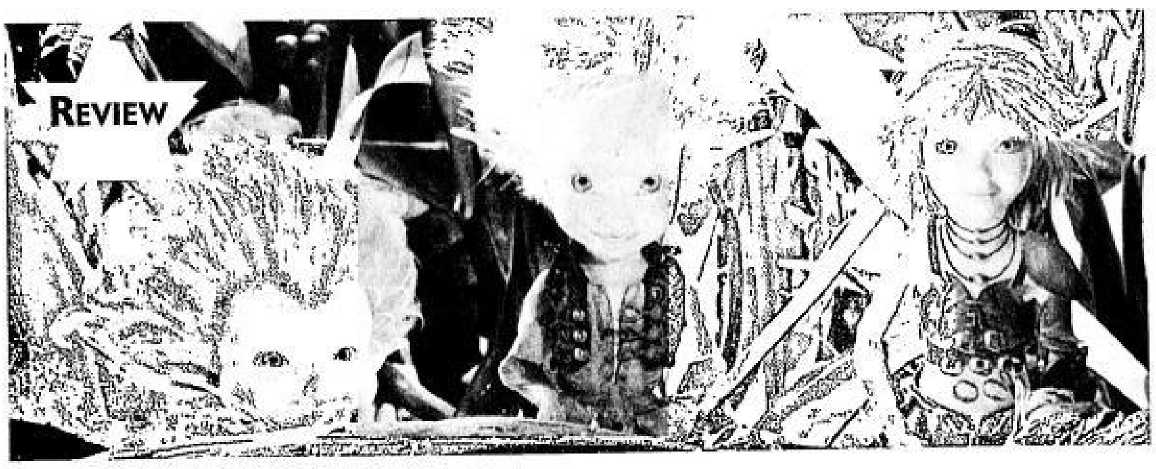

"ARTHUR and the Invisibles"

Coexistent magical realms

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

SENSIBLY POOLING TOGETHER recognizable fragments from Arthurian legends and classic children's stories, "Arthur and the Invisibles" works as an eye-pleasing union between live-action and digital animation formats. The two distinctly removed realms coexist well; suspension of disbelief makes the transition from one dimension to the other almost seamless.

In the "real" world, young and resourceful Arthur (Freddie Highmore) discovers the colorful journal of his grandfather, Archibald (Ron Crawford), while on vacation. Staying at his grandmother's (Mia Farrow) place has been peaceful, until they're threatened with eviction. The boy needs to find Archibald's hidden stash of rubies that can pay their debts.

Secret community

Prior to leaving on an expedition, Archibald left clues that Arthur must decipher. These lead the boy to the secret community of the tiny, elf-like Minimoys.

That's when the lush animated scenes come in. Beneath the grandparents' garden, these beings flourish, but they're threatened by the malevolent Maltazard (voiced by David Bowie), and his mosquito-riding flunkies. Arthur gets involved, naturally. In the process, valuable hints to the location of his grandfather's buried treasure are revealed.

Highmore ("Charlie and the Chocolate Factory") emphatically portrays two versions of the same character. In his scenes unadorned by effects, he warmly gives Arthur human dimension, while his transformed Arthur-Minimoy version allows him to tap into a more adventurous, playful side as a voice actor.

The Minimoys are voiced by a noteworthy cast as well, among them Robert De Niro (the wise old King), Madonna (the ill-tempered but brave Princess Selenia), and Jimmy Fallon (unrecognizable as the boy prince Betameche).

Directed by Luc Besson, no stranger to unrelenting action sequences and unearthly worlds, "Arthur and the Invisibles" speeds into a hazy quest that acquaints its viewers with every nook and cranny of its magical spaces.

Arthur's noble quest feels rushed when he's in the cartoon world of the Minimoys. The boy becomes a hero worthy of wielding the community's Excalibur-like sword, and becomes integral to putting an end to Maltazard's sinister plans. But the attraction between Arthur and Selenia feels odd because of the obvious age gap. Minimoys are centuries older than humans, even if they look young. But if you don't know that they're being voiced by Madonna and Highmore, it might not matter much. Still, the animated versions look like they might make a nice-looking pair—someday.

Two-dimensional

"Arthur and the Invisibles" makes use of its fairy tale structure well, although some characters like Arthur's parents (Penny Balfour and Doug Rand), later become two-dimensional, but not in the animated sense. They're there but are inconsequential.

As a whole, the Minimoys' artistically conceived and executed world balances out the other reality, with Arthur's un-animated world adding textured style to the more obvious message-driven substance. It's a working symbiosis, the less overt themes of survival in different ecosystems and peaceful coexistence subtly attached to the bigger, louder, good-versus-evil drama.

Mixed signals & miscommunication

REVIEW

FOUR INTERSECTING STORIES unfold separately in "Babel," a gripping exploration of contemporary issues that strongly involve communication and miscommunication. Director Alejandro Gonzales Inarritu and screenwriter Guillermo Arriaga ("Amores Perros," "21 Grams") collaborate once again, and this latest endeavor is characteristically a pressing, serious introspection on sad universal truths. Set in Morocco, Japan, the US and Mexico, "Babel" has connected characters that undergo differently devastating experiences almost simultaneously.

Ominous

As with the depressing but immersing "21 Grams," the filmmaker suffuses the story lines in "Babel" with attractively ominous situations, builds them up to showcase catastrophic incidents, and carefully cuts to other character-driven arcs with similarly foreboding implications. "Babel" throws in culturally clashing perspectives that reflect varying levels of timely truisms without getting dull or overdramatic.

The related stories are easy to follow. An American tourist, Susan (Cate Blanchett), is injured by a gun-toting boy shepherd in Morocco, and different repercussions soon affect specific persons directly and indirectly connected to the ordeal. Susan's husband Richard (Brad Pitt) calls home and entrusts their two kids to the nanny Amelia (Adriana Barraza). But she sneaks off with them to attend her son's wedding in Mexico. The original owner of the rifle, meanwhile, Yasujiro (Koji Yakusho), is preoccupied with raising a rebellious, deaf-mute teen daughter Chieko (Rinko Kikuchi).

It's not hard to get drawn into the tense situations. A recurring theme is the testing of delicate family rapport. Almost every story depicts betrayal and uncertainty in some form, but there is also a focus on hope and fortitude. And, of course, there's pain—from Susan's physical agony to Chieko's quiet desperation. The tale of the gun-playing shepherd boys (Said Tarchani and Boubker Ait El Caid) is heartbreaking, as the shooting is automatically assumed by some as a premeditated terrorist act.

Non-surprises

The film switches attention at all the proper junctures. It gets quite predictable at certain points. Yet, regardless of the occasional non-surprises, the performances are consistently good. "Babel" benefits well from such an eclectic, powerhouse cast.

"Babel" proves Inarritu's mastery of the cinematic language, with which he creates striking nuances and emphasizes the maddening swirl of mixed signals.

Oliver M. Pulumbarit, Contributor

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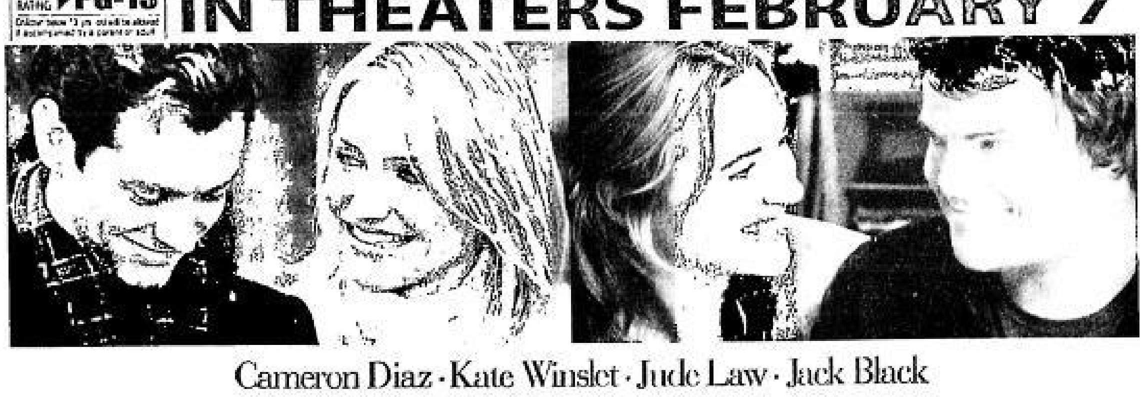
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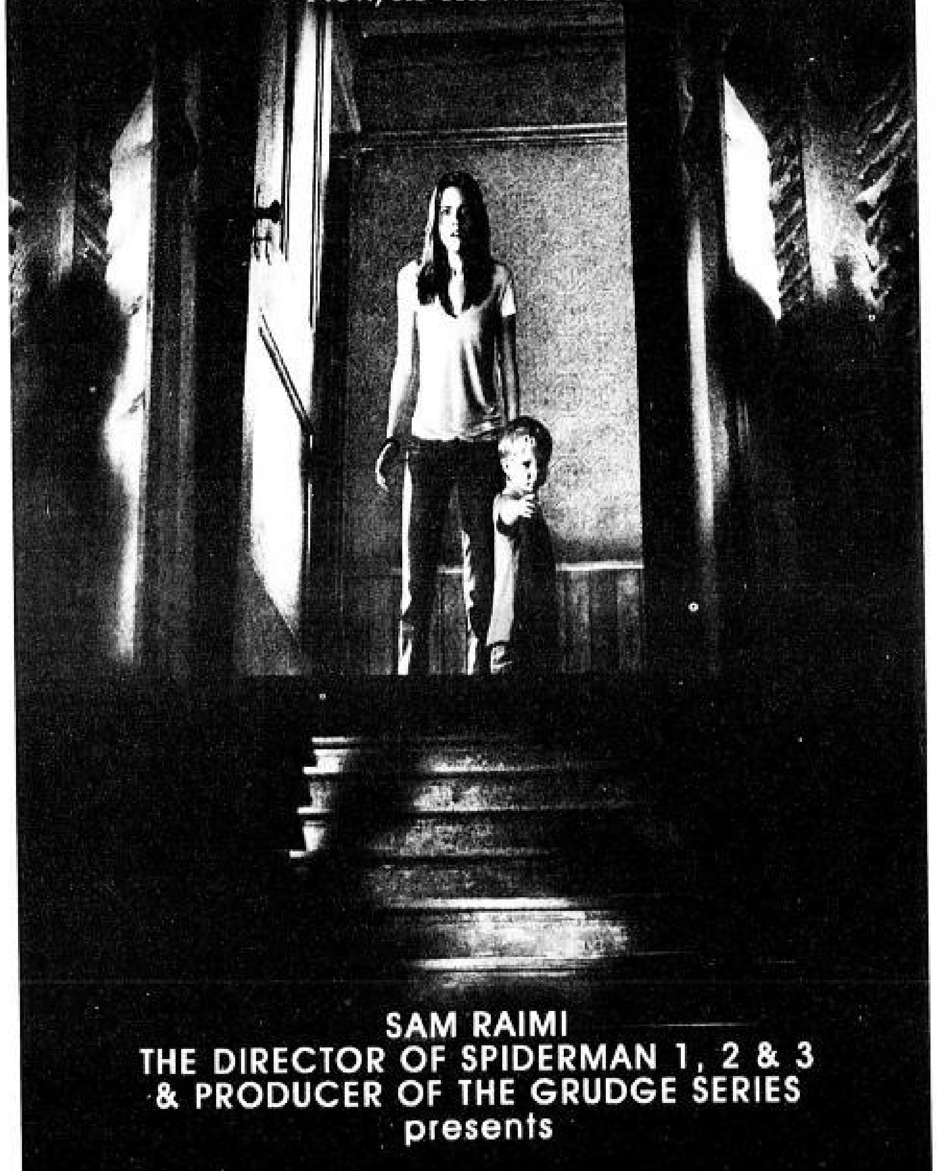

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'Hairspray' queen, part 2

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Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"I'VE KNOWN John Travolta for over 30 years, since he was a chorus line boy. I've never seen him disappear into a character like this."

That's what co-producer Craig Zadan told us about John, who "vanished" and turned into a woman in "Hairspray."

We continue our Toronto set visit report of "Hairspray," the film adaptation of the Tony-winning musical based on John Waters' movie about teenagers going crazy over a TV dance show in the 1960s.

John stars as Edna Turnblad, the mother of a teenaged dancer (newcomer Nicole "Nikki" Blonsky, a promising find) who gets a spot on the TV show and, along the way, champions racial integration and wins points for plus-size girls.

On the set, John reveled in morphing into his various film characters by telling us this interesting anecdote: "This morning, I met two men in their mid-80s at a country club where I had lunch. One of the guys said, 'You look like John Travolta.' I said, 'Yeah, a lot of people say that. John Travolta has a square jaw.' He said, 'He's probably a couple of years older than you are.' I said, 'Oh.' The other guy said, 'Well, how would you know what John Travolta looks like? He changes in every movie—he looks different each time.' I let them off the hook. But I loved hearing that."

In John's other new movie, "Wild Hogs," he shucked the 1960s dresses for men's leather biker apparel as one of four biker-wannabes (the others are Tim Allen, Martin Lawrence and William H. Macy) who strut in their motorcycles until they encounter a real biker gang.

Are you comfortable in high heels and all those things that you have to wear in "Hairspray?"

I grew up in the '60s and saw my mother in bras, girdles, the layers and the hose, oh, my God. I remember the effort it took for her to put on all those, and the big indentations those things left on her. I can go right back to the year this musical is set and remember all the details of that time.

Did it take some practice for you to do those dance numbers in high heels?

The high heels alone put stress on your back. It was a revelation to know what that was all about. I practiced dancing without the heels first. Then I chose medium heels because I'm already tall. I didn't want to be too tall. With the medium heels, I'm just a little taller than Chris (Walken, his co-star).

Was it a completely different experience for you then?

I think I put a feminine spin on it. There's also a difference in how you walk.

Did you get any advice from your wife about playing a woman?

I grew up with so many women that I didn't need any advice.

What did your kids say when they first saw you in the outfit?

They loved it. They loved Edna. If Edna was that much fun to look at ... I knew I was in good territory.

What is the final touch that makes you feel, "I'm Edna now"?

The face and the figure. I kept sending the body suit back. I said, guys, you're not getting it—I want a big ass, a little waist, big tits and legs and a soft face. I said, if I can get that, I can be Edna. If you're just going to make me a refrigerator, I'll be a guy. I said, I need a woman's body. Once it came in, the second fight was over clothing. They wanted me to put on clothes that hid the figure. I said, no. You have to get me clothes that shape the figure. I chose every fabric. I chose every design of the clothes. There was an instinct to make the clothes even more flamboyant. I said no. [My character is] lower middle class [like I was]. People in my neighborhood admired Sophia Loren, Elizabeth Taylor and Anita Ekberg; not Zsa Zsa Gabor.

How tough is it to put on all the stuff?

The process is tough because of all the glue on your face. The body suit is very hot and sweaty. Then you put on layers of undergarments and then layers of clothing. I'd say that altogether, I'm wearing an extra 15 pounds.

You chose to use a Baltimore accent as the role was originally written.

I chose the Baltimore accent because it is higher in pitch. It's more feminine, theoretically, more naïve. New York is more masculine—it has edge, gravity and roughness. Baltimore accent is about negotiating. It has an innocence to it—(in a soft voice) "How can I iron these pleats?" It puts you right up there. It makes you more of a woman than (in a lower voice), "How can I iron these pleats?"

LUCKY NEWCOMER. Nicole Blonsky, right, plays Tracy Turnblad in "Hairspray." Screen "mom" John Travolta says of her: "She'll knock your socks off."

Before this role, did you know how to iron clothes?

I did, actually, because when you're a lower middle class New Jersey kid, you had to iron some clothes. You had to wash some clothes, floors and toilet. You had to put the garbage out. That's all easy and natural to me. Folding clothes—that's familiar territory.

Did you discuss the role with John Waters (the filmmaker who did the 1988 cult classic set in the 1960s, which inspired the Tony Award-winning musical)?

I asked him certain things. I'm not going for the man thing in this; I'm going more for the woman thing. He was just excited that someone was doing it at this level. The Broadway show as a big hit. And then getting Michelle Pfeiffer, Chris Walken, Queen Latifah and myself to do this was another big surprise.

You said the curves make you feel like a woman. But what is it that makes you [as Edna] feel sexy?

She has a body that is used for sex. I think that they (his and Christopher Walken's characters, a couple) have a very healthy sex relationship. I'd rather that it went there. I didn't want to play grandma. It's much more fun to watch someone who has a body that resembles an overweight Sophia Loren.

Do you and Christopher kiss here?

No. We hug and I think it was a peck on the cheek. We never kissed. And we don't have a bed scene. It's not that kind of a musical.

What will stay in your mind about playing Edna?

You mean other than the misery of getting in and out of her? I think it's the kick that everybody got out of my doing [the role]. And committing to it. I went all the way, full throttle. You either do this or you don't.

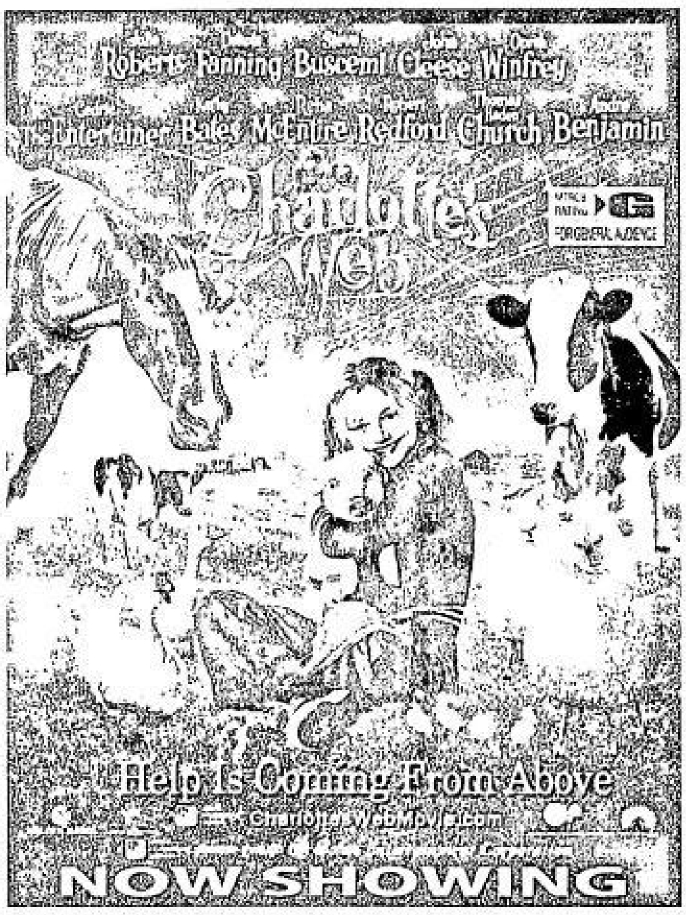
Tell us about Nikki Blonsky. Apparently, she has a phenomenal voice.

Oh, my God. She'll knock your socks off—a real talent. She's going to make an impression like Barbra (Streisand) made when she first came on the scene.

You look really happy. Are you pleased with the other aspects of your career as well?

I feel lucky that, at my age, I am still in demand. A lot of people [in my batch] are winding down. You've seen me go through ups and downs. It's very gratifying that I am still in demand after 31 years. I got these three movies that they didn't want to do without me. At 52, that puts a little boost in your step.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.



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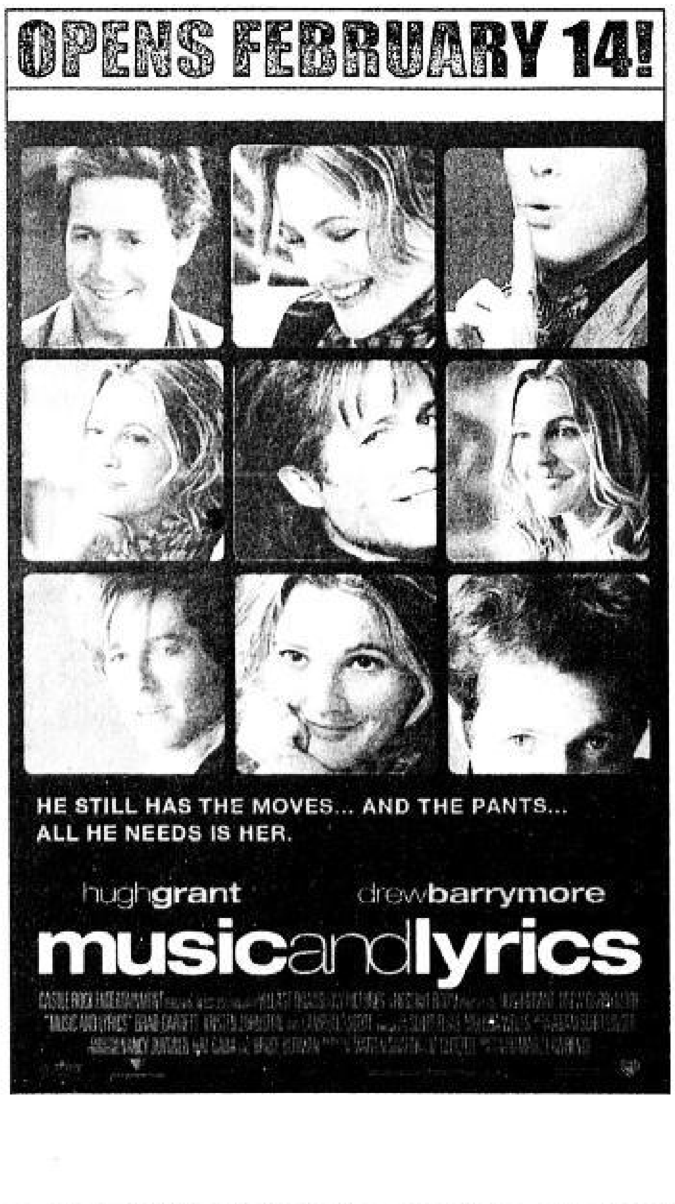

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EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00 PM
Feb. 06 & 20 , 2007	DYORDS KO PO	8:30 PM
February 11 , 2007	LOVI POE "A BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION"	9:00 PM
Feb. 13 & 14 , 2007	RAYMUND LAUCHENGCO	8:30 PM

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Oscar nominees on view

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

FILM BUFFS IN THE UNITED STATES COMplain that they're having a hard time finding theaters that show Oscar-nominated movies, the better for them to place bets on likely winners. The nominated productions either completed their runs months ago, or are deemed too "artistic" to appeal to mainstream viewers, so only a few movie houses want to screen them.

For some fortuitous reason, we're having a better time of it here, with many Oscar nominees on view before the Academy Awards are handed out later this month.

Time was when distributors here would wait until a film had won an Oscar before releasing it for local viewers to savor. This year, however, quite a number of nominated productions and performances have made themselves available for viewing before the awards night.

Perhaps distributors now think that a nomination is attraction enough for Filipino movie buffs to want to watch a production. Whatever the reason, the move is most welcome, and viewers should reward it with their avid patronage of the nominated productions in question.

Currently on view are (as of Feb. 1) are Oscar nominees (in diverse categories) "Babel," "Apocalypto," "Little Children" and "Blood Diamond."

And we're told that other Oscar-nominated productions will play here soon, *before* the Oscar winners are announced on Feb. 25.

They include "The Pursuit of Happyness," "The Last King of Scotland," "Dreamgirls" and "The Queen."

We trust that local Oscar watchers will take advantage of this opportunity to sample the Academy's best bets *before* the winners are chosen.

That way, they can become better-informed viewers—and "unofficial" judges in their own right.

This should be a boon for film appreciation and education in these parts—even if the Academy's choices don't reflect our own.

Feedback

FROM **Elise Romano** of Makati City: "I wish that newscasts on TV didn't dwell too much on crime stories. What good would it do if we kept hearing/seeing the same stories about stabbings, robberies and the like, complete with sobbing and screaming characters? What we need are analytical stories about the real news of the day, developments that have a long-term effect on our lives. Leave the tears and violence to the TV and movie dramas. Information is not entertainment."

***

Fom **Diana P. Solomon** of Quezon City: "With so many movie awards now being questioned, how can we be guided? Even US awards groups don't agree with each other. How do we separate the objective from the subjective awards?"

NUT: Decisions diverge from and occasionally even contradict each other partly due to different criteria and reasons for handing out awards. For instance, the Oscars are Academy (peer) citations, while the Golden Globes are handed out by reviewers and members of the entertainment media.

Locally, the industry awards are given out by the Film Academy of the Philippines, while the Urian is a critics' award.

In general, the Globes are deemed to be less "emotionally motivated" than the Oscars; ditto for the Urian in relation to the FAP Awards.

'The Last King of Scotland'

LEONARDO DiCaprio's fans want him to win an Oscar for his performance in "Blood Diamond," and **Will Smith**'s loyal followers also want him to go home with the Best Actor trophy for "The Pursuit of Happyness."

Unfortunately, they have to contend with the powerful portrayal of **Forest Whitaker** as Ugandan dictator **Idi Amin** in "The Last King of Scotland," to be shown exclusively at Glorietta 4 and Greenbelt 3.

In the film, a Scottish physician becomes Amin's consultant and witnesses kidnappings, assassinations and other shocking atrocities. Trapped in Amin's amoral abyss, the physician nearly loses his soul.

How can he reestablish his moral equilibrium?

Local distributors used to wait until a nominated film had won an Academy Award before releasing it for local viewers to savor

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2007

Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
(REBIDDING)

Republic of the Philippines

Name of Project	TECHNICAL EDUCATION & SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
Brief Description of GOODS	Various Training and Testing Equipment (NDFTES-02)
Loan Number	NDF Credit – 331

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a credit from Nordic Development Fund (NDF) towards the cost of the Technical Education and Skills Development Project (TESDP) being carried out by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). It intends to apply this credit for payments under the contract for **Four (4) Bid Lots for The Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Various Training and Testing Equipment to identify TESDP Beneficiary Institutions.**
2. The **Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders **for Training & Testing Packages for Various Occupational Sectors, with an Aggregate Project Cost of Approximately One Million Two Hundred Twenty Six Thousand Six Hundred Forty U.S. Dollars (US Dollars 1,226,640.00**. Delivery of the GOODS to the TESDP Institutional sites shall be ninety (90) calendars days from date of contract signing. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open competitive bidding as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", to the extent consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures as defined in "Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans," and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from The Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee of TESDA Central Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below during office hours (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m., Monday – Friday) starting January 30, 2007.
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents (in hard and soft copies) may be purchased by Interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of P10,000.00 or its equivalent in US Dollars. The method of payment will be in cash or check payable to TESDA, said payment to be acknowledged through an official government receipt (O.R.). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before 10:00 A.M., March 6, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of cash, cashier or certified check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit in the amount equivalent to 1% of the total bid price and Bank Guarantee in the amount equivalent to 1.5% of the bid price payable to TESDA or an equivalent amount in freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
7. Bid opening shall be held on March 6, 2007 at 2:00 P.M., at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who chose to attend.
8. TESDA will be employing a single-stage, three-envelope system of bidding, with Envelope No. 1 containing the Bidder's Eligibility requirements, Envelope No. 2 the Technical requirements and Envelope No. 3, the Bid Price The Eligibility requirements and the Bidding Forms will be specified in the ITB and the Bidding Documents.
9. TESDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

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Chairman, Bids and Award Committee
TESDA Complex, TESDA Administration Building
East Service Road, South Luzon Expressway
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(PDI–Jan. 28 & Feb. 4, 2007)

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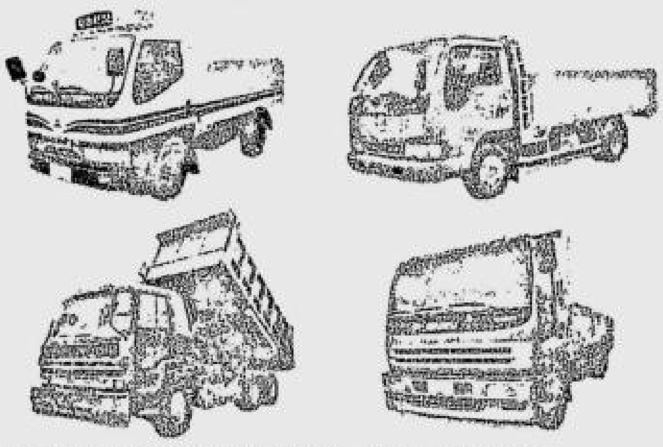

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(PDI – February 3 & 4, 2007)

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Final Notice

Subject: Last Day for Filing Application to Regularize Unauthorized/ Illegal Reclamation is 28 February 2007

The Philippine Reclamation Authority or PRA (formerly Public Estates Authority), is hereby issuing this advisory that there will no longer be further extension of the abovementioned deadline which is actually the second extension of the original deadline set under the PRA Administrative Order (A.O.) No. 2005-1.

Applications, letters of intent or similar documents received at the PRA office on or before 28 February 2007 or post-marked 28 February 2007 shall be considered for proccessing under the aforecited A.O. PRA's address is 7th Floor, Legaspi Towers 200, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City.

Thereafter, unauthorized/illegal reclamations shall be forfeited in favor of the National Government pursuant to Presidential Decree 3-A, Presidential Decree 1084, as amended, and Executive Order 543 delegating full Presidential power for PRA to approve all reclamation projects. The PRA actions shall be done in collaboration with the Office of the President, DOJ, OGCC, DENR and the DILG.

For compliance.

Philippine Reclamation Authority

By:
ANDREA D. DOMINGO
General Manager/CEO

Noted:
Hon. RAMON B. REVILLA, SR.
Chairman of the Board

(PDI - Feb. 1, 4, 11 & 18, 2007)

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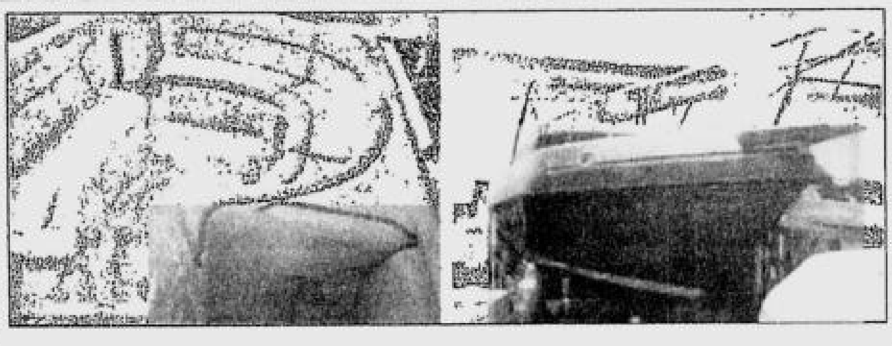

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NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION FIELD OFFICE
NHA Compound, Kalayaan Avenue
Diliman, Quezon City

MIRIAM MIRALLES MICKELSON,
Complainant,
-versus-
ROVEL DESIERDO TOMAMBO,
Respondent.
x - x

HLURB CASE NO. REM-061606-13379

ORDER

Finding merit on complainant's Ex-Parte Motion To Serve Summons By Publication, the same is hereby GRANTED. Accordingly, respondent Rovel Desierdo Tomambo is hereby summoned and required to file his written answer or comment or counter-affidavit to the complaint within twenty (20) days from the completion of the publication of this Order with Summons. No motion to dismiss shall be allowed but any ground proper for said motion, as well as counter-claims, cross-claim and third party complaint must pleaded in the same answer otherwise the same shall be considered barred. If respondent fails to submit his answer, comment or counter-affidavit, the complainant shall take judgment by default against him.

WHEREFORE, let this Order with Summons, together with a copy of the complaint be served by publication once a week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation.

The complainant is further ordered to serve a copy of this Order with Summons and the complaint to respondent Rovel Desierdo Tomambo through registered mail at his last known address.

The cost of publication shall be shouldered by the complainant.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Quezon City, December 29, 2006

ROWENA C. BALASOLLA
Housing and Land Use Arbiter

Approved By:

JESSE A. OBLIGACION
Regional Director

Copy furnished:
JIMENEZ LAW OFFICE
Suite 1102 Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Avenue corner Meralco Avenue
Ortigas Center Pasig City MM

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Office of the President
Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council
HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD
Quezon City

MIRIAM MIRALLES MICKELSON,
Complainant,
-versus-
ROVEL DESIERDO TOMAMBO,
Respondent.
x - x

HLURB CASE NO. REM-061606-13379
(For Cancellation of Real Estate License No. IV-08-027-2004 and Real Estate Registration No. IV-08-02-2004)

COMPLAINT

I, MIRIAM MIRALLES MICKELSON, natural born Filipino citizen and naturalized American citizen, of legal age, married, with postal address c/o ATTY. DANIELITO D. JIMENEZ, 1102 Antel Global Corporate Center, Julia Vargas corner Meralco Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, after having been duly sworn to in accordance with law, depose and say that:

1.) I am charging Respondent ROVEL DESIERDO TOMAMBO ("Respondent") for dishonesty and unworthiness to transact as a Licensed Real Estate Broker by abusing its use and consequently invoke the authority of this Office pursuant to Section 12 of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of PD 957 to revoke the registration and licence of Respondent issued pursuant to P.D. 957. A copy of such registration is hereto attached as Annex "A".

For purposes of this complaint for cancellation of Real Estate License and Real Estate Registration, Respondent may be served with the subpoena of this Office at 23-0 BCT, 252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., San Lorenzo Makati City.

2.) The circumstances surrounding the commission of the above violations warranting the cancellation of the above license and registration is hereby briefly summarized as follows, to wit:

2.1) Sometime prior to February 2003 several emails and exchanges of communications ensued between and among Respondent and one Cheyenne Morrison ("Cheyenne"), an agent of Respondent, and me and my husband David Mickelson. Respondent persistently convinced us to purchase a beach front property in the Philippines. He claimed that he had sold many beach fronts and islands in the Philippines as he is duly authorized by his license and registration to do so. He even maintained a web site to that effect. Also, we were shown a video clip of a beachfront property in Vigan, Bebeladan, El Nido, Palawan that was taken on 18 February 2003 as well as pictures taken on 27 & 28 March 2003 by Respondent's agents. One of the pictures of the beach front he sent us in a CD is shown below:

Respondent categorically represented that he possesses such capacity to broker the sale of the above property and persistently invoked that he is a duly licensed real estate broker in the Philippines (although it later appeared that his real estate license and registration have been issued in 2004) and that he can sell ¾ of a supposed divided portion of a property equivalent to FORTY SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED NINE (46,209) Square Meters of a certain real property located in the Sitio of Vigan, Barangay Bebeladan, El Nido, Palawan.

2.2) On account of the above representations, I along with my husband designated Respondent to act as our broker for the purchase of the above property. Thus, I and my husband along with our son went to Manila on April 2, 2003 to look at and purchase the above Vigan property. Cheyenne met us at the international airport. Meanwhile, I designated my husband to act for and on my behalf for the above transaction while me and our son, Zachary, went to Cebu to see my family.

2.3) Cheyenne and my husband proceeded to Las Palmas Hotel in Malate, where Respondent and his agent, Cheyenne Morrison were staying (in the same room). It is there that they also booked a room for my husband.

2.4) It is there that my husband personally met Respondent who showed to my husband David all their listings of properties for sale in the El Nido area (Palawan) – including the above Vigan property covered by a declaration of real property tax number 005-0049-A under the name of Nilda O. Reynoso. Inexperienced with real property transactions in the Philippines, my husband and me relied on the representations of Respondent that such declaration is evidence of ownership and that he is licensed to transact with the same, among other things.

A copy of the above declaration is hereto attached as Annex "B" to form an integral part hereof.

2.5) Upon instructions of Respondent, Cheyenne and my husband then flew to El Nido in the morning of April 3, 2003 to show to us the above property for sale in the area from April 3 to 6, 2003.

2.6) A certain Edgar Lim ("Lim") likewise an agent of Respondent picked up Cheyenne and my husband at the El Nido airport. In the course of all these events, Respondent as well as his agents and cohorts represented that the above cited portion of the above property was fully titled in the name of Nilda Reynoso and that the title could be quickly transferred to me within a few weeks.

2.7) Accordingly, my husband acting on my stead, also met with Nilda Reynoso (supposed owner) and her husband. They walked along the entire perimeter of the property showing my husband the corner markers of the above property. They also gave my husband a subdivision map showing the boundaries and dimensions of the property.

A copy of the supposed subdivision plan is hereto attached as Annex "C" to form an integral part hereof.

2.8) David then called me from El Nido using Cheyenne's cell phone in the evening of April 5, 2006 and discussed the Vigan property. Relying on the representations of Respondent and his agents as regards the supposed title and subdivision plan shown to us, we then proceeded with the purchase of the same under my name and a Deed of Absolute Sale was accordingly signed by Reynoso.

2.9) It is well to note that Respondent was the one who gave the go signal for his agents to proceed with the transaction and agreed to the negotiated selling price of Php 4 Million (Philippine Peso) as Respondent represented himself as an accredited and well known and established Real Estate Broker operating Elysian Fields Realty Services, a single proprietorship.

2.10) Thus, full payment was effected on April 7, 2003 which was received by Respondent's agent's handwritten payment receipt. During the morning of said date, Cheyenne, Edgar Lim, Nilda, her husband, and my husband personally went to see a certain Atty. Oscar Palomar in El Nido, to whom the Deed of Absolute Sale was subscribed. Respondents' agents along with Nilda Reynoso were supposed to hand carry the Deed of Absolute Sale to Puerto Princesa for filing.

A copy of the above Deed is hereto attached as Annex "D" to form an integral part hereof.

2.11) As priorly agreed upon, I directed my husband to then give Nilda $9,000 USD cash, and give Respondent through Cheyenne two checks totaling $65,000 USD plus $762 USD cash to make up the difference, for a total payment of $74,726 USD. Full payment was made after receipt of the Deed of Absolute Sale. Notably, the last paragraph of Cheyenne's receipt states "I accept said payment on behalf of Mr. Rovel Tomambo, of Elysian Fields Realty Services ..." Also, the receipt unequivocally stated that the same is supposed to be held in trust by Respondent (as he acted as our broker). Also, Cheyenne subsequently countered the said funds to Respondent which was supposed to be held by him in a trust account for our behalf until the title was to be transferred in my name.

A copy of the receipt showing such fact and undertaking is hereto attached as Annex "E" to form an integral part hereof.

2.12) Cheyenne and David then returned to Manila on April 8, 2003 and again met Respondent at Las Palmas Hotel in Malate. There and then, David personally witnessed Respondent's agent, Cheyenne, hand the two checks to Respondent in view of the position held by Respondent as our broker. Later it appeared that instead of depositing the above funds ($65,000.00 USD) in an escrow account in trust for me and David, the above two checks were endorsed by Respondent and deposited into his personal bank accounts as follows:

a.) Harborstone Draft No. 897253 in the amount of $ 60,000.00 USD to Philippine Veteran's Bank Palawan Branch under Account No. 03407-0000123 (Endorsed and signed by Rovel Tomambo)

b.) Harborstone Draft No. 897256 in the amount of $ 5,000.00 USD to First Union National Bank then EPCI Bank in Iloilo under Account No. 2000-1911-3128-4 (Endorsed and signed by Rovel Tomambo)

Copies of the above drafts and their respective transfer to the personal account of respondent are hereto attached as Annexes "F" and "G" to form integral parts hereof.

2.13) Despite several follow ups with Respondent through emails for several months, the title supposedly transferred in my name was never delivered as it later appeared that the supposed subdivided portion was undivided and yet to be segregated from its mother title. Also, it was apparent that Respondent could not and did not have such capacity to transfer such title in my name.

A copy of the undivided title of the property covered by Certificate of Title No. G-367 otherwise known as Assessor's Lot No. 002, Block No. 12, situated in the Sitio of Vigan, Barangay Bebeladan, El Nido, Palawan, assessed and declared under Tax Declaration No. 005-0049-A (PIN 086-13-005-12-002), issued by the Provincial Assessor of the Province of Palawan is hereto attached as Annex "H" to form an integral part hereof.

2.14) Meanwhile, Respondent who supposedly held the money in trust could not account for the above funds. Also, despite demand to return and notice of revocation of his designation as broker, Respondent failed and still fails to return the above funds held in trust.

A copy of the demand letter delivered to said Respondent is hereto attached as Annex "I" to form an integral part hereof.

3) As a final note, Respondent's acts of a.) misrepresenting to me and my husband that he possesses such expertise to deal by being a duly registered and licensed real estate broker in the Philippines (although in 2003 he appear not to have any license yet and assuming he had such license, the same was however limited to engaging in the business of selling subdivision lots and condominium units in accordance with Sec. 11 of the Revised Rules Implementing P.D. 957 and should not have been used to make it appear that such registration authorized him to engage in the sale of the subject property which apparently cannot be sold); and b.) promising that he will merely hold the funds in trust, which representations enticed me and my husband to simultaneously deliver to said Respondent the above funds amounting to $ 65,000.00 USD; and c.) in subsequently refusing to return the same amount supposedly held in trust despite demand and cancellation of his representation, undoubtedly and sufficiently demonstrated his unworthiness to engage in the business of broker in the Philippines warranting the cancellation of his real estate license and registration. By abusing the use and issuance of such license and registration, Respondent clearly made numerous misrepresentations and displayed his dishonesty and unworthiness to be issued such license and registration. The deceit employed by him did not only damage us but has clearly damaged the reputations of how the public (and foreigners) perceive licensed real estate brokers in the Philippines.

4.) I am executing this Affidavit to attest to the truth of all the foregoing and for the purpose of seeking the removal of Respondent's name from the Register of Dealers and Brokers of This Board and cancellation of Respondent's Real Estate License No. IV-08-027-2004 and Real Estate Registration No. IV-08-02-2004 issued pursuant to Section 3(e) and (ee) of Act 2728 as amended, Executive Order No. 913, Series of 1983, E.O. No. 133 and 242 Series of 1987, and P.D. 957 as well as forfeiture of bond previously filed. Pending proceedings, I am likewise seeking for the immediate suspension and issuance of a cease and desist order against Respondent to prevent him from continuously discharging his Office as a registered real estate broker of the Republic of the Philippines and making it appear to the public that his license was issued pursuant to an authority to sell islands and beach fronts in the Philippines as demonstrated in his website then www.palawanrealty.com.

(VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION
OF NON-FORUM SHOPPING)

5.) I further certify and affirm that as complainant in the above case, I caused the preparation of the foregoing complaint.

6.) I further attest that I have not commenced a similar, related or any other proceeding involving the same subject matter, issues or causes of action before any other court, administrative tribunal or agency in the Philippines and to the best of my knowledge, no such other similar complaint for cancellation is pending before any court, administrative tribunal or agency.

7.) If I hereafter learn of any such similar complaint, I undertake to report that fact within five (5) days to this Honorable Board.

8.) I further certify that the foregoing complaint are true and correct of my own knowledge and authentic documents and records.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this 06 day of APR 2006, at Pasig City.

Miriam M. Mickelson
MIRIAM M. MICKELSON
Adverse Claimant

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO, before me a Notary Public for and in the City of Pasig this 06 day of APR 2006; personally came and appeared before me the affiant, with Passport No. MM588297 issued on 2 March 2004 and valid until 2 March 2009 at Philippine Consulate General, San Francisco, United States of America.

DANIELITO D. JIMENEZ
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DECEMBER 31 2006
PTR NO. 2999457/01-20-06/PASIG
IBP NO. 03229/RIZAL

Doc No. 133;
Page No. 28;
Book No. X;
Series of 2006

ASSISTED BY:

JIMENEZ LAW OFFICE
Counsel for Complainant
Suite 1102 Antel Global Corporate Center
Julia Vargas Avenue cor. Meralco Avenue
Ortigas Center, Pasig City MM

By:

DANIELITO D. JIMENEZ
PTR NO. 2999457/01 20 2006/Pasig
IBP LRN NO. 03229/Rizal
ROLL NO. 43303

(PDI - Jan. 28 & Feb. 4, 2007)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

FOR FEMALE APPLICANTS

ROVING SUPERVISORS
HR ASSISTANT

GRADUATE IN RESPECTIVE FIELD
PROFICIENT IN COMPUTER

**WE GIVE GOOD COMPENSATION TO COMPETENT,
HARD WORKING AND DEDICATED PEOPLE.**

PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON AT:
158 P. SEVILLA ST., BETWEEN 6th & 7th AVES., GRACE PARK, CALOOCAN CITY
BRING RESUMÉ W/ 2x2 COLORED PHOTO; NBI CLEARANCE

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY

Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC) SECRETARIAT OFFICE
Tel. No. (632) 455-2758 e-mail: vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply and Delivery of one (1) unit Security Appliance/Firewall

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*, through a UK Grant intends to apply the sum of *P400,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *the supply and delivery of one (1) unit security appliance/firewall*. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *the supply and delivery of one (1) unit security appliance/firewall*. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, **Instruction to Bidders (ITB)**.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT* and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *8:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of P2,500.00. The method of payment will be *CASH*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *February 24, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.*** at the *NFA Boardroom, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City*.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the *NFA Boardroom, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City* on March 6, 2007 from 1:00 p.m. to 1:45 p.m.. Late Bids shall not be accepted. All Bids must be accompanied by a, Bid security in either of the following form and amount.

Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
Cash, cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
Surety Bond stamped "Callable on Demand" on the face of the Bond issued by GSIS	Two and a half percent (2.5%)
Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share

Bid opening shall be on *March 6, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.* at the *NFA Boardroom, 6th floor, Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives.

The *NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity	-	*NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY*
Contact Persons	-	*Jose D. Chua / Violeta S. Villarama*
Address	-	*Philsugin Bldg., North Avenue, Quezon City*
Telephone/Fax No.	-	*(632) 455-2758*
Mobile Phone	-	*(0928) 4102732*
e-mail address	-	*vsvillarama@nfa.gov.ph*
Website	-	*www.nfa.gov.ph*

(Sgd.) **PEDRO S. HERNANDO, JR.**
Deputy Administrator and BAC Chair
for Administration and General Support Services

(PDI - Feb. 4 & 11, 2007)

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

GUAGUA, PAMPANGA

February 2, 2007

INVITATION TO BID

PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS AT SAN ROQUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS INVITING ELIGIBLE BIDDERS FOR THE SUPPLY, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION, TESTING AND COMMISSIONING OF THE FOLLOWING

DETAILED SPECIFICATION:

ITEM	QUANTITY
69 KV SF6 CIRCUIT BREAKER, LIVE TANK	ONE (1) SET

Rated voltage 72.5 KV
Rated normal current : 2,500 Amps.
Protection Panel : Wall mounted type, Indoor application
Differential Relay : Micom P632 Micro-Processor

ACCESSORIES:

3 pcs. 69 KV Current Transformer : 300/5 Amps Class 100:72.5 KV; IEEE-57-13/93
1 set Battery Charger
1 set Battery Bank
1 lot Steel Structure (galvanized)

NOTE: INCLUDES ALL MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL WORKS

1. Installation of grounding system of supplied equipment
2. Installation of Galvanized steel structure
3. Power & Control Cable interconnections
4. Hauling and positioning of equipment
5. Testing & commissioning of equipment

PLACE OF DELIVERY: MABIGA SUBSTATION, MABIGA, MABALACAT

Please include in your proposal the following:

a. Bid Amount (Pls. indicate if VAT inclusive or exclusive)
b. Delivery Date
c. Validity Date
d. Terms of Payment
e. Preferred unit – manufactured in U.S.A., Japan or Europe

You are therefore invited to submit your sealed bid on February 13, 2007 (Tuesday), 2:00 P.M. at PELCO II Board Room San Roque, Guagua, Pampanga. Opening of sealed bids shall be on the same date and time.

To all interested bidders please prepare and submit the following documents to the BAC Chairman for your Accreditation. (For non-accredited supplier only).

1. Company's Profile
2. Latest ITR
3. Mayor's / Business Permit
4. Audited Financial Statement
5. DTI and SEC Registration
6. Accreditation Fee (P1,000.00)

All qualified bidders should secure bidding documents from the BAC Secretary on February 8, 2007 with Bid Documents Fee to be paid at the Cashier's office in the amount of P10,000.00. The bid documents fee is based on the actual expenses incurred in the publication of this invitation and the reproduction of the bidding documents.

The Bid Bond to be included in the Financial Proposal is either in the form of the following:

a. Cash / Manager's Check (inclusive of VAT) – 2.5% of the total bid price
b. Surety Bond (inclusive of VAT) – 10% of the total bid price

All bidders are requested to be at PELCO II Board Room exactly at the given date and time. Late comers will not be entertained by the Committee.

The Approved Budget Cost for this particular bidding is TWO MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (Php 2.8M). (inclusive of VAT)

The BAC has the right to reject any or all bids which failed to comply with the requirements, waive any informality in the proposal received and to accept such most advantageous to the cooperative.

For more information please see / contact Engr. Raul L. Canlas at PELCO II Office or dial number (045) 900-2650 or 0920-918-5464.

(Sgd.) ENGR. RAUL L. CANLAS
PBAC Chairperson

Noted by:
(Sgd.) MR. SULPICIO C. LAGARDE, JR.
General Manager

(PDI – February 4 & 5, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
National Electrification Administration
Needed Immediately

GENERAL MANAGER

for

FIRST LAGUNA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (FLECO)
Lumban, Laguna

Qualifications:

- 30-50 YEARS OLD
- Male or Female
- Graduate of Business Administration, Engineering (Electrical, Mechanical, ECE), Accounting, Finance, Management or Behavioral Science
- With Master's Degree or Post-Graduate Degree preferred
- Must have at least five (5) years managerial experience in a utility-related business enterprise
- Computer literate
- Must be willing to relocate with his/her family in Laguna

Starting Salary: P30,000.00

Application forms and additional information maybe obtained from the Institutional Development Department, 6th Floor, NEA Building, NIA Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Deadline for submission of application form is on 20 February 2007.

(Sgd.) **EDITA S. BUENO**
Administrator

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Cebu

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE - INFRASTRUCTURE

Cebu Capitol, Cebu City
Tel. No. 255-6123; Fax No. 253-3981

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Province of Cebu, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Infrastructure (BAC-INFRA), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder contracts:

A. Road Asphalting:

General Information
Title : Road Improvement Projects 2007
Scope : Items of work include, but not limited to, asphalting, line ditching, cross drainage & slope protection

Particulars:

Package (Contract ID)	ABC (PhP)	Location & Road Sections	Plans and Bid Documents (PhP)
Package 1 PC-RA-07.01	55,854,502.39	**1st District, Mainland Cebu** 1. Campo 7 - Hayunan Rd., Minglanilla 2. Balirong - Alpaco Rd., Naga 3. Sangi - Balungag Rd., San Fernando 4. Ocaña - Napo - Puesto - Guadalupe Rd., Carcar 5. Perrelos - Can-asujan Rd., Carcar 6. Valencia - Buenavista Rd., Carcar	20,000.00
Package 2 PC-RA-07.02	46,959,631.56	**2nd District, Mainland Cebu** 1. Usmad - Cansuje Rd., Argao 2. Cambanua - Jomgao - Panadtaran Rd., Argao 3. Cawayan - Malones Rd., Dalaguete 4. Guiwang - Cabalongan Rd., Alcoy 5. Alcoy - Nug-as Rd., Alcoy 6. Boljo-on - Dalayday - Sn. Antonio Rd., Boljo-on 7. Samboan - Cañang Rd., Samboan 8. Caceres Rd., Oslob 9. Luka - Tumalog - Canyang Rd., Oslob 10. Poblacion - Inambakan Falls Road, Ginatilan 11. Poblacion Alegria - Lepanto Rd., Alegria 12. Banhigan - Lambog Rd., Badian 13. Badian Cemetery Rd., Badian 14. Leon Ejercito Street, Badian 15. Dagatan Road, Badian 16. Sta. Cruz - Liki/Baha-baha Road, Ronda 17. Ylaya - Kanlangkas - Pawa Rd., Dumanjug 18. Cogon - Lawa-an Rd., Dumanjug	50,000.00
Package 3 PC-RA-07.03	75,889,472.75	**3rd District, Mainland Cebu** 1 Japitan - Candugay - Giloctog Rd., Barili 2. Cabcaban - Cagay - Pari Rd., Barili 3. Pob. Gunting - Balao Section, Barili 4. Cagay - Kalubihan Rd., Barili 5. Esperanza - Tampa-an Rd., Aloguinsan 6. Asturias - Agtugop Rd., Asturias 7. Mangga - Carmelo Rd., Tuburan 8 Tuburan Beach Rd., Tuburan	20,000.00
Package 4 PC-RA-07.04	83,441,176.31	**4th District, Mainland Cebu** 1 Maño - Cayam Rd., San Remegio 2. Poblacion Tominjao - Maya Rd., Daanbantayan 3. Bogo - Libertad - Odlot Rd., Bogo 4. Cai-anan - Ilihan Section, Tabogon 5. Poblacion, Tabogon 6. Dayhagon - Lamintak - Luy-a - Pob. Rd., Medellin 7. Curva - Tindog Provincial Road, Medellin	20,000.00
Package 5 PC-RA-07.05	25,461,316.93	**5th & 6th Districts, Mainland Cebu** 1 Sogod - Pansoy Rd., Sogod 2. Cantumog - Naamao-an Rd., Carmen 3. Balingasaw Provincial Road, Lilo-an	10,000.00
Package 6 PC-RA-07.06	38,301,795.70	**Bantayan Island** 1 Kankaibe - Atop-atop Prov'l. Rd., Bantayan 2. Bunakan Road, Madridejos	10,000.00
Package 7 PC-RA-07.07	59,700,500.91	**Camotes Island** 1. Sn. Francisco - Sta. Cruz-Cabungaan Rd., San Francisco 2. Sn. Francisco - Puertobello Rd., Sn. Francisco 3. Sn. Francisco - Santiago Rd., Sn. Francisco 4. Western Pob. - Adela Daan Paz Rd., Poro 5. Poro Altavista Rd., Poro	20,000.00

B. Construction of Bridges

General Information
Title : 2007 CEBU PROVINCE PRIORITY BRIDGE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
Scope : Reconstruction of Bridges

Package (Contract ID)	ABC (PhP)	Location & Road Sections	Plans and Bid Documents (PhP)
Package 1 PC-BR-07.01	6,880,167.00	**1st District, Mainland Cebu** 1. Baran Bridge I, Baran, Naga 2. Baran Bridge II, Baran, Naga 3. Baraca Bridge, Carcar 4. Napo Bridge, Carcar	4,000.00
Package 2 PC-BR-07.02	8,896,062.00	**2nd & 3rd District, Mainland Cebu** 1. Lepanto Bridge, Poblacion, Alegria 2. Ebo Bridge, Balamban	4,000.00
Package 3 PC-BR-07.03	17,463,059.00	**4th District, Mainland Cebu** 1 Purgason Bridge, Daanbantayan 2. Odlot Bridge I, Bogo 3. Odlot Bridge II, Bogo 4. Lapaz Banban Bridge, Bogo 5. Sagay Bridge II, Borbon 6. Dakit Bridge, Borgon	5,000.00
Package 4 PC-BR-07.03	17,598,703.00	**5th District, Mainalnd Cebu** 1 Ipil Bridge, Carmen 2. Cantumog - Naimao-an Bridge, Carmen 3. Balas Bridge, Tudela, Camotes Island 4. McArthur Bridge I, Tudela, Camotes Island 5. McArthur Bridge II, Tudela, Camotes Island 6. Sacran Bridge, Tudela Camotes Island 7. Adela Bridge, Poro, Camotes Island 8. San Jose Bridge I, Poro, Camotes Island 9. San Jose Bridge II, Poro, Camotes Island	5,000.00

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the ABC per package, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC-INFRA will use non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening and in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC-INFRA will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to Submission of Eligibility Documents/Statements and Screening, Bid and Performance Securities, Pre-Bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract, shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations-A (IRR-A).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

BAC-INFRA Activities	Schedule
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility	February 2-8, 2007
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	February 2-8, 2007
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	February 8, 2007
4. Notice of Eligibility Check Results	February 9, 2007
5. Issuance of Plans and Bid Documents	February 12, 2007
6. Pre-bid Conference	February 15, 2007
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	February 21, 2007

The BAC-INFRA Secretariat will issue to prospective bidder's Eligibility Forms at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Capitol Compound, Cebu City, upon their submission of a Letter of Intent stating and specifying therein which projects they intend to undertake, and payment of non-refundable amount of Fifty Pesos (P50.00) for each project to the Cash Division. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to, and may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check from, the aforementioned address. For further inquiries, one may call the Secretariat at (032) 255-6123.

The Secretariat will issue Bidding Documents including Plans and Specifications only to bidders declared by the BAC-INFRA who are found to be eligible to bid, upon payment to the Cash Division a non-refundable amount as above-stated.

The Province of Cebu assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids, and reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding or not to award the contract.

(Sgd.) **ADOLFO V. QUIROGA**
Chairman

(PDI--Feb. 2, 4 & 6, 2007)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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VD SPECIALIST
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ADULT CIRCUMCISION
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PERSONAL

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ACCOUNTANT

ACCOUNTANT
1.REGISTRATION OF BOOKS 2.COMPANY FORMATION 3.SETUP BOOKS OF ACCOUNTS 4.BOOKKEEPING 5.FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 6.TAX PREPARATION 453-0294 09175281769

ARCHITECTS

ARCH'T 2D/3D (0927)9194639

INSURANCE

BEST LIFE INSURANCE PLANS HIGH DIVIDENDS 09197627316

MISCELLANEOUS

COMP PROGRAMMER VB SQL MS ACCESS 0917-8034732

HOUSEHOLD JOBS

BEST MAID YAYA COOK 9957034

DIRECT MAID YAYA COOK 4384809

Drct Maid Yaya w/Icook Hboy 7288283

Drct Maid Yaya w/Icook Driver Boy 7282229

Trstdmaids Yaya Cgver M'aide cook drvr 7282229

Trstdmaids Yaya Cgver M'aide cook boy 7281837

YA'MAIDLAVAD'RV'RCOOK 7288610

Yaya, Cook, H'maid 8969219

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Brokers are welcome

COMML/RESDL

•Proj6 #58Road3 Coml/Resdl• 9219967/0255; 09178865431

RUSH NEW PANADEROS ST STA. ANA LA331SQM P20M NEG CLEAN TITLE DAN 09217704786 / 9393386

HOUSE & LOT

11th JAMBOREE 714SQM CR LOT 0918.916-4733

174 sqm P4.3M neg 7430686

Bnew 4br jacuzi 2.8M 9487112

Hse 200sqm & Lot 143sqm 4sale Concorde VII, Pque P4.5M 8536318 09179511677

•KAMUNING #95K-1 St Bnew• 9219967/0255; 09178865431

MARIKINA 484 sqm 4BR 2KIT nr ATENEO 6819949

New Legarda Subd Bustos Bul 3.1M very nice 09178227788

P1.1M 2BR 2STRY 8054686

IMMIGRATION AUSTRALIA

ELPIDIO JNR. BAUTISTA
Registered Migration Agent-MARN: 0002606

Free Consultation:
Contact Details:

Australia	Philippines
ELPIDIO BAUTISTA, JR.	LAW OFFICE OF:
(Immigration Consultant)	Elpidio R. Bautista, Jr.
26 Spitz Ave. Newington NSW 2127 Australia	Filinvest-1, Batasan Hills Quezon City, M.M. 1126 PHILIPPINES
Telefax (612)-9737 9506	Tel/Fax (632) 9314046
Mobile: 0401 465494	(632) 9510180
Email: ejbautista@tpg.com.au	

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

Proj3 Bnew P6.5M 4BR 4TB 18 Dao St 4352186/09204330282

Rush Sale Promo!!!
2BR PHAUS (127sqm) - 4.9M
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1BR (40sqm) - 1.5M
Studio (25sqm) - 1M
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0917-8307643

SIKATUNA VILL QC
•P16.5M #24 Mapagsangguni
•P5.2M #32 Mayihain St.
4352186/7242629/09204330282

XAVIERVILLE
Rush Sale! 28 Xavierville Ave 508sqm - 4BR / 4TB P10.2M covered Lanai Pkng for 4cars DIRECT BUYERS ONLY Call Nora 09273200380

NEW MANILA BNEW
Semi-furnished 5-7 BDRMS w/gym 697-0990 7279475 0917.6095345

CONDO/TWNHSE

ATENEO NEW 1BR FF 9268804

3 VICTORIAN T/house Unit In Britanny Bay La Posadas at below DEVELOPER'S PRICE

UNIT	L/A	F/A	P	NOW
D21	88m²	171m²	7.5M	6.034M
D3	98m²	171m²	8.363	6.57M
D01	88m²	171m²	8.156	6.527M

PORTOFINO LOT 522m² P6.8M now P5.9M-Cel#0918-9009785

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FEW UNITS LEFT!!!
As low as 30% D.P.
15yrs. Bank fin.
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• STUDIO 1BR 93ST 1.5M •
RFO 1ST QTR 2009 MIDRSE
ONLY 15000/MO 5YRS 2 PAY
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COLUMNS AYALA 09209126709

DMCI Resort Type Living Condo 1-3BR Mand, Pasig Pque, C-5 , 0915-2952026

MAKATI TOWN HOUSE RUSH 4 SALE 35TO 40 SQM 3MNEG. 09267582109/ALBERT

QC Sikatuna Thses 4br w/ grg nr Ateneo UP Ace Supermart Call 9215328 ; 09166496838

RUSHI 35T/M² 55M² RM 105 DELSA CONDO SCT BORROMEO QC SEMI-FURNISH CELL-0920-4162828 JUN

SHANG ST. FRANCIS
ROCKWELL /COLUMNS 09175348266

Penthouse 180 Sqm 2 Parking 14.8M Roxas Blvd 09175021668

CALIFORNIA GARDEN SQUARE LAGUNA D' BAY VIEW 2BR 2TB RFO P2M 0917-8168618

APARTMENT

3 Door 5M 7284275

LOT

Baras 1.5H #6327759 Alg Rd

Bolasi Pangasinan 3,139m² & 6,439m² Resdl Comml
Call 455-5474 Juanita

CABUYAO SOUTH POINT 186 & 198 sqm 6819949

FOR QUICK SALE
(WITH PASIG RIVER ACCESS)
1,756 SQ M VACANT LOT
LOCATED AT OLD PANADEROS ST., STA. ANA MANILA
PHP16.5M GROSS
CONTACT: IDA 09177942970 OR ELMA 09175267730

Lakeshore Pampanga 229m² P5,000 /sqm 09178227788

Primavera Subd Baliuag 181m² P4,200/sqm 09178227788

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

Punta Fuego 400m² nr Marina Call 09178133842; 7131422

RESORT

BEACH FRONT
4,546 SQR MT, 6 Cotges
1 1Big S. Pool,1Big Bung'Low
1 Two Storey Concrete Bldg.
Call Owner 09185235243
Direct Buyers only

SARIAYA BEACH RESORT 7HEC W/51RM, CLUBHOUSE, ADMIN BLDG, PAVILLION, 2 HAUS, 3 GENERATOR, 2 POOLS, 1 JACUSI, 60M NEG CALL BRYAN REMO 09193412958 RISA 09195905587

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

FOR LEASE
1.OFFICE SPACES
Legaspi/Salcedo Vil
Makati
2.STORE SPACES/ WAREHOUSES
Dasmariñas, Cavite
Alabang-Zapote Rd
Las Piñas
3.CHEMICAL TANKS
Bauan, Batangas
ALL RENTAL – NEGOTIABLE
Call Tel. No. 892-2681 to 96
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WANTED TO RENT
HOTEL & MOTEL BUILDINGS
w/in METRO MANILA
Call Alan
0918-904-4495
FAX 032-344-2717

HOUSE

Studio Type P5T 7284275

CONDO/TWNHSE

2BR 2CR w/Parking Acacia Lane Mand Cel#0917-6231352

Burgendy frt Ateneo 9211050

East Wood Olympic Heights 1BR Available APL 1520 T MO w/ parking 8138420

For UP-Mla Students
Furn Studio Nr. Robinson Call 0917-9160226

Makati 4Bed Condo 09282461033

Resdl Condo Bryton Hill front of SM Center Point 2BR 8133568 8138420

APARTMENT

1&2BR NR P.GIL 5634007/5891978

2-3BR & 2TB w/ cor port 3rd St 10th Ave G. Park Cal. City Call 361-6188 / 363-9215

2BR APT FOR 1YR LEASE NEAR EDSA 10K 34 ESTEBAN ST MANDALUYONG 531-7157

3 Door 5M 7284275

Nr. Rdrguez Hsp 4579618

Proj 8 4BR 2TB P15T 09179888923

7T 41Fema Rd Edsa Proj8 9211050

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

440M² WAREHSE W/OFC SPACE 7BR 3TB 4 ADAMS ST BRGY SN ANTONIO NR MUNOZ MRKT 0918-9095514

MALABON
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4 Concrete Warehouses
Secured Compound
Areas:500;500;1000;1275sqms.
Rent: Negotiable,
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Cell: 0916-5582538

ROOM & BOARD

•FURNISH PASAY 8872865•

FOR LEASE

Exhibit/Tiangge Spaces For Rent 687-7009 • 9141058

ROOM & BOARD

Nr.UST/RevCtrs U-BELT A/C, non-AC Rms/Bdspc 0917-4283404

BEDSPACE

CUBAO Aurora nr 20th Ave Male share Rm P25.00/head 9110056 ; 0917-3260995

LOAN & MORTGAGE

1%R. Estate Loan, Sal. Seaman ED 746-0186 • 0919-3317582

Business•Doctors•OFW•Car •Real Estate• 524-3197

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT

Ofc Space Pasay Road 461 Sqm 8133568 8138420

Office Space Salcedo Village 430Sqm T- 8138420 8133568

CONDO/TWHSE/ FOR SALE/RENT

EAST ORTIGAS MANSIONS 2BR complete amenities 05062654917

MKT. CONDOS 09209126709

RENT-TO-OWN/CONDOTEL PASIG. QC. PQUE 0917-5216828

TRANSPORTATION FOR SALE

2002 Toyota Revo DLX Php 380K Fuel 0927-9859713

98MDL MERCEDEZ MUSSO A/T SILVER 280T 0920-4162828 JUN

CARS

05 Hilux E manl 18mags flare bed liner ins 09178111561

2001 VOLVO S80 79T KMS. P575TH. 0917-8835148

VAN/PICK-UP

L200 97 DSL DBL CAB P230 CALL 0906-4727712

OTHER CAR BRANDS

BERYLLE CARS
Araneta Ctr Cubao nr Ali Mall finance Trde-in slot rental P3K Consign 439-1117; 0917-8342020 Pajero Trooper Hi-Town Ace Lancer Chariot Corola Ipsum Prado Surf Fargo RVR MU Suzuki Terano Trucks etc

BOATS

For Sale Speed Boat Jhonson 45HP Less Than T250 Trisha 8330121 09205952222

TRANSPORTATION FOR RENT

VANS 9226702 9214535

CARS FOR RENT

★Cheap Van 9330311★

WANTED TO BUY

•BUY CAR VAN SUV 9275739•

CAR LOAN

1% AUTOLOAN 788-0361

1% Car Lending 6560140 United Tree Car Loan Corp.

1% CARLOAN 373-6519

1% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

1% EASY CARLOAN 8997759

1% Sangla ur Car 5344441

1% w/out taking car 5315577

1.5% Easy Car Loan 3748765

1.5% easy carloan 7815352/55

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7723810/12

2% W/O TAKING CAR 7880183-84

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

BILLIARDS

B'LIARD TBLE 38T-UP 8014494

PETS

PHILIPPINE DOG SCHOOL Trains w/Full Guarantee T721-3736 • 0916-7297392

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

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GoldCrest Bldg., Glorietta - 2
5646593 5897041 0917-8473744

MISCELLANEOUS

Elect wheelchair 09178227788

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

CAREGIVER COURSE
528-0722 Study Now Pay Later 0917-7924104, 0922-8148322

"WE CANNOT CHANGE THE WORLD,BUT WE CAN CHANGE OURSELVES"
The Ramakrishna Vedanta Society of the Phils.will hold a dialog on the above theme on 15 Feb. at 7:00 PM in Pasig. For details,pls call 6428433/5

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of late FELICITAS G. BORJA was extrajudicially settled by the heirs with waiver of shares as per Doc 0054; Page 41; Book CXVIII; Series 2007 before Notary Public Atty. Elsa Verdadero Perlas of Pasig City (PDI - Feb. 4, 11 & 18, 2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE VALENTIN ESTEBAN HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED BY HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC# 489; PAGE#98; BOOK# VII; SERIES OF 2006 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. MOISES de CASTRO OF BACOOR CAVITE
PDI-JAN. 21, 28 & FEB. 4, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late CESAR G. LEUTERIO was extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc#133 Page#28 Book#26 Series of 2006 of Notary Public Ramon U. De Guzman of Quezon City, Metro Manila.
(PDI-Jan. 21, 28 & Feb. 4, 2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE HEIRS OF THE LATE RODOLFO QUINTOS PARTITIONED HIS ESTATE IN AN EXTRA-JUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF THE ESTATE OF THE DECEASED RODOLFO QUINTOS EXECUTED ON DECEMBER 28, 2006 AND ACKNOWLEDGED BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC FOR AND IN THE CITY OF MANILA, ROBERTO B. ARCA RECORDED IN HIS NOTARIAL REGISTER AS DOC. No. 11; PAGE 3; BOOK II; SERIES of 2006 OF HIS NOTARIAL REGISTER
PDI-Feb. 4,11 & 18, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ERLINDA SAMONTE GARCIA has been extrajudcially settled by her heirs as per Doc#434 Page#88 Book#LXXXI Series of 2005 before Notary Public Primitivo C. Cruz of Taguig City, Metro Manila.
(PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4 &11, 2007)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF CRISPIN L. ALCORN SR HAS BEEN EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTELED BY HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC # 57 PAGE # 11 BOOK # 3 SERIES OF 2007 BEFORE NOTARY PUBLIC ATTY. BELLA FLOR GEROMO OF PARANAQUE
PDI-FEB. 4, 11 & 18, 2007

Notice is hereby given that the ANSCOR Stock Certificate Nos. RT A-00221801 issued on 08/18/1988 1,853shares.SD A-00315481 issued on 09/24/1992 799 shares, SD A-00390784 issued on 08/27/1997 3,158 shares issued to Mr. EDUARDO N. GUANZON was lost. If no contest is received, new certificates will be issued.
(PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of FRANCISCA C. MEDALLA who died inestate on October 27, 2006 consisting of a savings account with Land Bank of the Philippines have been extrajudicially settled among her heirs as per Extrajudicial Settlement date Feb. 1, 2007 denominated as Doc. No. 17761; Page No. 334; Book No. 05; Series of 2007 in the notarial registry of notary public Daniel T. Alviar. (Feb. 4,11&18, 2007)

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INVITATION TO BID

Sealed proposals together with the 10% bid bond for the purchase on **CASH BASIS** of the Bank properties listed below will be received at the **Special Assets Department, 30th Floor, LBP Plaza, Malate, Manila** not later than **February 21, 2007 @ 2:00 P.M.** at which place, date & time, said proposals will be opened in the presence of attending bidders.

In case of **CLOSELY CLUSTERED TOP BIDS** (defined as having the second highest bid which is not below 90% of the highest bid), the opening of the sealed bids will be immediately followed by an open bidding in which all bidders whose bids are not below 80% of the highest bid may participate. **The minimum increase in the open bidding should not be lower than P10,000.00.**

	PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
1.	3,246 sqm residential lot	cor. Sanso & Salameda Sts., Corinthian Garden Subd., Brgy. Ugong Norte, Q.C.	P108,200,000.00
2.	1 lot raw materials for shoe production	5th Camarilla cor 1st Camarilla Sts., Murphy, Cubao, Quezon City	P3,620,000.00
3.	portion of lofty warehouse	Jacinto Compound, Novaliches, Quezon City	P120,000.00
4.	150 sqm residential lot w/ 1 storey bldg	#939 Pili Road, Levitown Subd., Ph 9, Brgy. La Huerta, Parañaque City	P1,173,000.00
5.	Blk 50 Lot 4 - 600 sqm res'l lot	Xavier Estates Subd., Upper Balulang Cagayan de Oro City	P2,940,000.00
6.	Blk 50 Lot 5 - 600 sqm res'l lot	Xavier Estates Subd., Upper Balulang Cagayan de Oro City	P2,940,000.00
7.	Blk 50 Lot 6 - 600 sqm res'l lot	Xavier Estates Subd., Upper Balulang Cagayan de Oro City	P2,940,000.00
8.	Blk 50 Lot 7 - 600 sqm res'l lot	Xavier Estates Subd., Upper Balulang Cagayan de Oro City	P2,940,000.00
9.	Blk 50 Lot 9 - 600 sqm res'l lot	Xavier Estates Subd., Upper Balulang Cagayan de Oro City	P2,450,000.00
10.	Blk 50 Lot 10 - 631 sqm res'l lot	Xavier Estates Subd., Upper Balulang Cagayan de Oro City	P3,092,000.00
11.	Blk 42 Lot 4 - 669 sqm res'l lot	Xavier Estates Subd., Upper Balulang Cagayan de Oro City	P3,262,000.00
12.	Blk 42 Lot 11 - 969 sqm res'l lot	Xavier Estates Subd., Upper Balulang Cagayan de Oro City	P4,360,000.00
13.	527 sqm residential lot	L20 B45, Spyglass Hills St., Manila Southwoods Subd. Ph 2, Bo. Baybay, Carmona, Cavite	P2,635,000.00
14.	1,212 sqm res'l/comm'l land w/ comm'l bldg/warehouse	along Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City	P18,750,000.00

For the complete description of Item Nos. 1-13 including bidding forms, you may look for May or Tiffany of the Special Assets Department (SPAD) 30/F, Land Bank Plaza, 1598 M.H. Del Pilar cor. Dr. Quintos Sts., Malate, Manila.

For Item No. 14, public bidding will be held at 3rd Floor Megacenter The Mall, General Tinio St., Cabanatuan City, you may look for Mr. Fred Wenceslao or Ms. Regina C. Nimes at (044) 463-1803 or (044) 600-1835.

Prospective bidders are enjoined to inspect the above-listed properties as well as legal status of the title before submitting their bids. The sale of the properties shall be on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. The winning bidder shall take possession of the awarded property without seeking assistance from the Bank. The award in favor of the winning bidder shall be subject to the approval of the LBP approving authorities.

If for any reason the above-mentioned date is declared a non-working holiday, the public bidding shall be held on the next working day at the same time and place aforementioned.

Landbank reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any formality therein, and to accept the bid most advantageous to the Bank. The decision of Landbank shall be final and binding.

(Sgd.) **CECILIA C. BORROMEO**
Chairman
HEAD OFFICE COMMITTEE ON ASSET DISPOSAL

(PDI - Feb 4, 2007)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Science and Technology
Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and
Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
PAG-ASA Science Garden, Agham Road, Diliman Quezon City 1100

P.R. No. AD 07-006, 07-007 & 07-011
Photocopying Machines, Security and Janitorial Services
Funding Source: General Fund
PAGASA Central Office

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The PAGASA, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites registered PhilGEPS suppliers/ manufacturers/ distributors/ contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project : Rental of Photocopying machines, Security and Janitorial Services

Qty./Unit	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the contract	Contract Duration
Lot 1	Security Services (36 Security Guards)	P 4,671,140.00	May to December 2007
Lot 2	Janitorial Services (39 Janitors)	P 3,660,782.72	May to December 2007
Lot 3	Rental of Photocopying Machines (29 units)	P 650,000.00	May to December 2007

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule/Time	Venue
1. Issuance of Bid Requirements & Bidding Documents	Feb. 5 - 12, 2007	General Services Section 3/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
2. Pre-bid Conference - Security Janitorial Photocopying Machine	Feb. 13, 2007 / 2:00 p.m. Feb. 13, 2007 / 3:00 p.m. Feb. 13, 2007 / 3:30 p.m.	Amihan Conference Room 2/F PAGASA Central Office Bldg.
3. Submission of Eligibility Req., Envelope I & II – Security Janitorial Photocopying Machine	Feb. 26, 2007 / 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Feb. 26, 2007 / 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Feb. 26, 2007 / 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.	
4. Opening of Eligibility Req. and Envelope I - Security Janitorial Photocopying Machine	Feb. 26, 2007 / 9:00 a.m. Feb. 26, 2007 / 10:00 a.m. Feb. 26, 2007 / 11:00 a.m.	
5. Opening of Bids - Envelope II Security Janitorial Photocopying Machine	Feb. 26, 2007 / 2:00 p.m. Feb. 26, 2007 / 2:30 p.m. Feb. 26, 2007 / 3:00 p.m.	
6. Bid Evaluation & Post-qualification	Feb. 26 – March 9, 2007	
7. Notice of Award	March 23, 2007	

Interested parties may avail Bid Requirements and Bidding Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee equivalent to 0.2% of the approved budget per item in no case lower than P500.00 and not more than P1,000.00 to the PAGASA Cashier, upon presentation of this advertisement clipping, together with the Company's TIN.

The PAGASA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

(Sgd.) PRISCO D. NILO
Chairman, PAGASA-BAC

(PDI - Feb. 4, 2007)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late JESUS P. AVENDANO was self-adjudicated by her wife, ERLINDA, Parcel of (Lot 25A of the subd. PSD 00044625 being a portion of Lot 25/ at Bo. Barangka Ilaya Mandaluyong City as per Doc#390 Pale#79 Book#1 Series of 2007 by Atty. Jimmy D. Lacebal Mandaluyong City.
(PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GENE CRUZ was extrajudicially settled by his heirs per Doc No. 55; Page No. 11; book No. 107 Series of 2007 before Notary Public Jose L. Sta Ana of Marikina City
(PDI - Feb. 4, 11 & 25, 2007)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given re: Lost Phil. Passport #QQ0120153 issued to ARVIN DAVE R. VELASCO.
(PDI-February 4, 2007)

Notice is hereby given that Stock Certificate No. 152139 issued by ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp for 1,000 shares of Mr. Juan Tomas Araneta has been reported lost. If no contest received new certificate will be issued.
PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11, 2007

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Need 30person Work thru Phone txt name/age 0919-4039971

RTW closing sale kids adults P20 up to P50 09178830002

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

ACCOUNTING GRADUATE

• FEMALE,20-35 years old
•Pleasing Personality

JACKARDE HOTEL
#8 Gemini St. Pamplona Park
Subd.,Las Piñas City
#874-5244 / 874-4339
•Bring Resume W/ Picture •

CAREGIVER • 528-0747

Competent F LIC DENTIST Ortigas Mall 09273526718

DEPED MARIKINA CITY
OSEC DECSB TCH1-30714 30715 30716 30717 30718 30719 30720 30721 30722 30723 30724 30711 30712 30713 2006 MT1-31493 T3-36242 36330 36251 36195 T2-36077 30185 36184 T1-49018 31396 LET/PBET PASSER

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

LIC. FEMALE RADIOLOGIST
ORTIGAS MALL DENTAL
0927-352-671

NURSE-CGFNS PASSERS
USA Direct Hire; Resume to:
nurse.usadirect@yahoo.com

•OFFICE SECRETARY•
Female Accounting Graduate
Call 366-2222; 367-2222

OFFICE STAFF
Female Grad, computer lit prefer Proj 8 & nr resident Call 453-6347; 926-0029

Receptionist/Secretary
Female / Fluent in English /
knows MS word & Excel
Dental X-ray Technician and Dentist Female/Licensed
Submit resume at
THE LAPID DENTAL CENTER
- 5th Floor, The Block, SM City North Edsa, Quezon City;
-4th Floor, Robinson's Metroeast, Pasig City;
-2nd Flr, Padre Faura Wing Robinson's Ermita Manila

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

WANTED PERSON WHO KNOWS HOW TO PRODUCE FLY PAPER 7111465 7111479 MARCELO TOMAS

WANTED
SALES LADY w/PLEASING PERSONALITY AT LEAST 20 TO 25 YRS OLD AT LEAST 3RD YEAR COLLEGE LEVEL WILLING TO BE TRAINED CALL: 5253609/5260741

WRITER, excellent in news and column writing, single, not more than 30 years old, female, good in public relations. ACCOUNT MANAGER, single, pleasing personality, not more than 30 years old, high scholastic records, good in public relations. Attractive salary, fringe benefits, allowances. Apply in person at Interlink Media Services, 2nd floor, CCH building, NO-136 Levisle St., Salcedo Village, Makt. Applicants will be entertained only between 8:30-9:30 a.m. on Feb 6 and 7 (Tues and Wed)

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Main Campus, Estancia, Iloilo
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E-mail Address: nipsc_main@yahoo.com

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the **NORTHERN ILOILO POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE** is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Commissioner Saturnino M. Ocampo, Jr.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS :
- Must be a Natural born Filipino citizen;
- A holder of an earned doctorate degree in any academic field relevant to the mission and mandate of the College;
- Below 60 years old at the time of application;
- Must have a proven track record as administrator whether in private or public organization for at least five (5) years; and
- Morally upright and has no record of criminal, civil and/or administrative conviction.

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae and authenticated/certified supporting documents:
- The applicant's proposed Vision and Thrust for the College within a four-year period;
- Result of the Neuro-Psychiatric Examination accomplished by a competent physician of a government accredited Test Center;
- Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician;
- Under Oath CSC Form 212; and
- Certificate of no pending cases.

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before March 06, 2007 to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commmissioner S. M. OCAMPO, JR. OR
CHED, 5/f. DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1690
Telefax No. (02) 636-1693

MS. JULIETA S. RAVENA
Board Secretary
Northern Iloilo Polytechnic State College
Main Campus, Estancia, Iloilo
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Telefax No. (033) 397-0315

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Ms. MARIBEL GALLEGO MACATO, whose picture appears on top, is no longer connected with **Brightpoint Philippines, Inc.** effective **06 January 2006**.

Any transactions entered into by her using the name of the Company effective the above date is deemed unofficial and therefore shall not merit due acknowledgement.

(PDI - Feb. 4, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Be it known that a Warrant of Arrest has been issued against **Ms. ERMELINA M. ABELLA** of No. 38 Forestry St., VASRA Village, Diliman, Quezon City, whose picture appears above, by Presiding Judge Jansen R. Rodriguez of the Regional Trial Court Branch No. 6, National Capital Judicial Region, Manila in Criminal Case No. 06-242248 for QUALIFIED THEFT.

Please direct any information leading to her arrest or whereabouts to:

The Chinese General Hospital & Medical Center
286 Blumentritt St., Sta. Cruz , Manila
Tel. nos. (02)7114141 loc. (613),(623),(617)

A reward will be given to any information that will lead to her successful arrest.

(PDI – February 4, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given to the public that a Warrant of Arrest has been issued by the **REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH 122 of CALOOCAN CITY** against **MS. MARIETTA M. PARCERO**, whose picture appears herewith, in connection with the **CRIMINAL CASE NO. C-72523** for **ESTAFA**. For any information leading to the lawful arrest of **MS. MARIETTA M. PARCERO**, please contact: **HEXAGON GROUP OF COMPANIES. TEL. NOS. (02) 414-6241 to 45.**

(PDI - Feb. 4, 2007)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

ITB NO.: 01-09-2007

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project	:	Supply and Delivery of Two (2) units Brand New Sports Utility Vehicles
Brief Description	:	6 cylinder in-line, OHV 4,479 cc gasoline engine, Automatic Transmission, with ABS, tunnel sensors, aluminum paneling, DVD player, equipped with a shift lock mechanism, passenger seat that has 4-way power adjustment, air-conditioning system with Automatic control & rear control, adjusted lumbar support and an 8-way power adjustment, signal mirrors that have red light indicators.
Approved Budget	:	Five Million One Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Pesos (Php 5,194,000.00)
Source of Fund	:	Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila., Tel. No. 526-0573.

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Pre-Bid Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	February 1, 2007 – February 23, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	February 13, 2007 (2 pm)
3. Submission of Bids	February 26, 2007 (2 pm)
4. Opening of Bids	February 26, 2007 (2 pm onwards)

Bid documents will be available to prospective bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office, 2nd Flr. PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee of *Two Thousand Five Hundred Ninety Seven Pesos (Php 2,597.00)*. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretariat.

PAGCOR assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

PAGCOR reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd.) **RENE C. FIGUEROA**
Chairperson, BAC 1

(PDI – Feb 4 & 11, 2007)

PSNbM annual convention

THE PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF Newborn Medicine (PSNbM) celebrated its first anniversary (theme: "Baby's Breath Issues, Trends and Controversies") with its first National Convention from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2 at the Hotel Intercontinental Manila. Kicked off with a Neonatal Research Contest and Instructor's Update on Neonatal Resuscitation Program, the convention's day one featured a meeting by society members with five foreign experts well-versed in the management of respiratory disorders in the newborn. The visiting neonatologists are Professor Brown of Boston University School of Medicine, Professor Jatinder Bhatia of Medical College of Georgia, Professor Rangasamy Ramanathan of USC Women's Children's Hospital, Dr. Enrique Ostrea of Wayne State University School of Medicine and Dr. Victor Samuel Rajadurai of KKK Women's Hospital in Singapore. Day one capped with a workshop on assisted ventilation where 250 participants rotated in four modules – Conventional Mechanical Ventilation, Hi-frequency Ventilation, Bubble CPAP and Inhalational Drug Delivery of Iloprost/Aerosols with Chest Physiotherapy. Shown are the PSNbM officers and members led by the President, Dr. Emilio A. Hernandez, Jr. during their induction at Hyatt Hotel.

OBITUARIES

Rodolfo Siasat Quintana

Joined his Creator on January 31, 2007 at the age of 70.

His wife **DELIA**; children **DINA** & **ANTHONY**, **ROBERTO** & **ANNALIE**, **DESIREE**, **DIVINA**; grandchildren **RODOLFO ANGELO**, **DACIA ANDREA**, **DIEGO ANTONIO**, **ANNA DELLENOR** and **ROBIE ANNE** request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the Agoncillo Chapel, La Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 7, 2007, at the Manila Memorial Park, Parañaque City after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Agoncillo Chapel of La Funeraria Paz-Parañaque.

In Loving Memory of
Our Dearly Beloved

WILLIAM F. GEMPERLE

(†February 6, 1983)
especially on his 24th death anniversary.

Holy Mass will be offered on Tuesday, February 6, 2007 in the following churches

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church .. Magallanes Village, Makati City	.. 6:15 AM, 7:00 AM, 12:15 NN & 6:00 PM
Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park	.. 6:15 AM, 7:30 AM, 12:15 NN & 6:00 PM
St. John Bosco Parish Church, Pasay Road, ... Makati City	.. 6:30 AM, 7:30 AM, 12:15 NN & 6:00 PM
Sto. Niño de Paz Chapel, Greenbelt, Makati City ..	.. 7:15 AM, 12:15 NN, & 5:45 PM
St. James Parish Church, Ayala Alabang	6:20 AM & 6:30 PM
St. Jerome & St. Susana Parish, Ayala Alabang ..	.. 6:00 AM, 12:15 NN & 6:00 PM
Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish .. BF Homes, Parañaque City	.. 6:00 AM, 6:45 AM & 7:00 PM
Parish Church of the Resurrection .... BF Homes, Parañaque City	.. 6:15 AM & 6:30 PM
St. Benedict Church, Alabang Hills, Muntinlupa City	6:15 AM & 6:30 PM
St. Joseph Parish, Tambo, Parañaque	6:30 AM
St. Joseph (Bamboo Organ) Church, Las Piñas	6:00 AM
St. Andrew's Cathedral, Parañaque	6:00 AM
Shrine of Jesus the Way, the Truth and the Life ..... Pope John Paul II Youth Center	.. 5:30 PM
Our Lady of Sorrows Church, FB Harrison, Pasay	6:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Nuestra Señora de Guia Church, Ermita, Manila	6:30 AM & 7:30 AM
Our Lady of Remedies, Malate Church ...	7:00 AM & 6:00 PM

We, his family, sincerely thank our relatives, friends and readers for kindly remembering him in prayer.

GLORIA DUCLAYAN SANTOS

(March 31, 1945 - February 2, 2007)

*Joined her brother **Elmer** and parents*
***Pedro** and **Maria Duclayan** on February 2, 2007.*

Her bereaved husband **Nanerico D. Santos**, daughter **Gloria Jr.** and son **Juan Paolo**, relatives and friends request the readers to pray that she be speedily received in the company of the happily departed and in the eternal bliss of God's bosom.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

After the 8:00 a.m. Holy Mass, Cremation will take place at 1:00 p.m. at Loyola Memorial Park Crematorium, Marikina City.

For your Classified and Obituary Ads please call:
☎637-2008

OBITUARIES

"My servant will be where I am," (Jn. 12:26)

The Most Reverend

GENEROSO C. CAMIÑA, PME, DD

Bishop Emeritus of Digos
has joined our LORD on February 1, 2007

His remains lie in state at the Home of the Clergy Chapel, Home of the Clergy, Doña Aurora St., Digos City.
Funeral Mass will be at the Mary Mediatrix of All Grace Cathedral on February 10, 2007; 1:30 pm. Interment follows at the Clergy Cemetery, Home of the Clergy Compound, Doña Aurora St., Digos City.
In lieu of flowers, you may give donations to the Bp. Camiña Apostolic Daughters of Mary (ADM) Scholarship Foundation.

Atty. Jorge Abueg Nuñez

Former Board Member, Assemblyman and Congressman of Cavite

Peacefully joined his Creator
on February 2, 2007 at the age of 66.

His remains lie in state at St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Memorial Chapel, Humambon St., Magallanes Village, Makati City.

Interment will be on February 7, 2007 at Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque City.

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- We have a very extensive landbank located in Makati Central Business District (CBD), Ortigas CBD Manila/Pasay/Parañaque Bay Area, Mactan Beach, Cabuyao, Calatagan and other strategic locations in the Philippines.
- We will develop residential condominiums, residential housing, office buildings, condotel, commercial centers and leisure/retirement projects.
- We aim to be among the leading real estate developers in the Philippines.
- We are inviting professionals experienced in the real estate industry in all levels of the organization to join.
- Applicants must be top performers in their organization, with excellent scholastic record, a team player, results-oriented and with high ethical values.

An INVITATION to the

BEST Real Estate PROFESSIONALS

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER (Code: Realty-Comm)

We are looking for a Brand & Communications Champion who will create excitement and lasting image across our business. Recommend and execute sound strategies and participate in the preparation of the company's new product lines. Identify new market opportunities, conceptualize and develop brand and communications/PR programs.

Qualifications:

- At least 8-10 years solid experience in marketing/brand management or advertising coming from leading Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), Real Estate, Insurance or Food Service companies.
- Creativity and an ability to bring new concepts, ideas and products in the market
- With high scholastic records. Preferably with MBA or masteral units.
- Excellent oral, written and cross cultural communication skills
- Must be a team player, hard worker and results driven.
- Ability to work with deadline and end-dates in a marketing environment

SALES DOCUMENTATION & CONTROL MANAGER (Code: Realty -SDCD)

- With at least five (5) years related experience in a real estate company
- Graduate of any business course from reputable college or university
- Must be analytical and systematic
- Must be result oriented, assertive and able to work under extreme pressure

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT (Code: Realty - EA)

- Graduate of any business management, Management Engineering, or Industrial Engineering course
- Must belong to top 10% of the graduating class
- Must have at least five (5) years experience
- Highly analytical
- Excellent oral and written communications
- Must be results driven and a team player
- Highly organized and systematic
- Willing to work extended hours

MARKETING OFFICERS (Code: Realty-Mktg)

- Responsible for the preparation of marketing plans, market analysis and strategic formulation and events management
- With at least ten (10) years marketing experience
- Preferably with MBA units
- Creative, hardworking, and resourceful
- Graduate of marketing/Business/Communications/advertising

BUSINESS ANALYST (Code: Realty-BA)

- College graduate from reputable schools, preferably Economics major
- Must belong to top 10% of graduating class
- Highly analytical
- With excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills
- Can work under pressure, mature, dynamic and hardworking
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

ADMIN. ASSISTANTS (Code: Realty - AA)

- Graduate of any business management course
- Must belong to top 10% of the graduating class
- Must be results driven and a team player
- Highly organized and systematic
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS MANAGER (Code : Realty-PR)

Will be responsible for securing government permits, licenses, etc.

- Must have good contacts with government agencies, LGUs, HLURB, DENR, DAR, etc.
- College graduate from reputable schools
- Preferably with at least five (5) years experience in a real estate company
- Must possess strong sense of integrity, results-driven and team player
- Must be assertive and able to work under extreme pressure

MARKETING ASSISTANTS (Code: Realty - MA)

- Graduate of business management course, major in Marketing
- Must belong to the top 10% of graduating class
- Must be results driven and a team player
- Highly organized and systematic
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

HR ASSISTANT (Code: Realty - HR)

- Graduate of Human Resources, Psychology, Behavioral
- Science from reputable schools
- Must possess strong personality and leadership
- Must be familiar with recruitment and testing
- Must have good communication and interpersonal skills

CREATIVE ARTIST (Code: Realty-Creative)

- With at least two (2) years experience
- Graduate of Advertising or Marketing
- Must be highly creative
- Must be results driven and a team player

VP - OPERATIONS (Code: Realty-Opns)

Responsible for sales documentation and control, customer service, customer financing, customer remittance, IT, etc

- Graduate of any business course fro reputable schools; preferably with MBA units
- With at least ten(10) years operations experience, preferably in the real estate industry
- Excellent people management skills
- Can work under pressure, mature, dynamic and hardworking

AVP - PROJECT MANAGEMENT (Code: Realty-APM)

- With at least fifteen (15) years project management and/or construction experience preferably with high rise buildings
- Engineering graduate, preferably with MBA units
- Can work under extreme pressure and willing to work extended hours
- Must have good management skills and result-oriented

PROJECT MANAGER (Code: Realty -PM)

- With at least five (5) years project management and/or construction experience
- Licensed Civil Engineer
- Can work under extreme pressure and willing to work extended hours
- With excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER (Code: Realty-BDM)

- Must have at least ten (10) years experience in business development in a reputable realty company
- Preferably graduate of Management Engineering, Industrial Engineering, Economics from reputable schools
- Preferably with MBA units
- Mature, dynamic, hardworking, resourceful and result-oriented
- Can work under extreme pressure

CREDIT AND COLLECTION MANAGER (Code: Realty-C&C)

- With at least ten (10) years related experience preferably in a real state company or other financial institutions
- Accounting graduate; preferably with MBA units
- Highly analytical
- With excellent organizational, interpersonal and communication skills
- Team player

CREATIVE ARTS MANAGER (Code: Realty-Creative)

- With at least ten (10) years related experience preferably in the real estate
- Graduate of Marketing/Business/Communications/Advertising
- Preferably with MBA units
- With excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Must be a team player, highly creative, hardworking and results oriented

MARKETING SERVICES MANAGER (Code: Realty-Services)

The Marketing Services Manager will work closely with Brand & Communications Manager, Sales Groups and Business Development Group in the execution of the company's marketing and sales programs.

Qualifications:

- With 8-10 solid years experience in marketing services preferably coming from leading Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG), Real Estate, Insurance or Food Service companies.
- The candidate should be able to thrive in a fast-paced environment and approach projects with strong business sense, have flexible and adaptable mindset.
- The person should have a meticulous attention to detail as well as strong organizational/supervisory skills and the ability to handle multiple projects with competing deadlines.
- With high scholastic records. Preferably with MBA or masteral units.
- With good track record in planning, executing and evaluation of sales promotions, events, exhibits and corporate tie-up programs.
- Excellent oral, written and cross cultural communication skills.
- The person must be a team player, hard worker and results driven

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANTS (Code: Realty - Acctg)

- Graduate of business management course, major in Accounting
- Must belong to the top 10% of graduating class
- Must be results driven and a team player
- Highly organized and systematic
- Fresh graduates are welcome to apply

VP - MARKETING (Code: Realty-Mktg)

Responsible for the conceptualization and preparation of brand plans, product strategies, field activated promotions, research and PR campaign

- With at least ten (10) years in similar capacity preferably from a real-estate industry
- Graduate of Marketing/Business/Communications/Advertising, preferably with MBA units
- Well-versed in marketing communications, marketing services, ad and promo, event management, etc.
- Adept in planning, analytical, attentive to details and can relate with people
- With excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Must be a team player, highly creative, hardworking and results-oriented

AVP - HR (Code: Realty-HR)

- Graduate of Human Resource Management, Psychology, Law or equivalent
- Discipline Case Management, Report Writing, Philippine Labor Laws
- With at least fifteen (15) of working experience in the related field is required
- With excellent interpersonal, communication skills
- Can work under pressure, mature, dynamic and hardworking

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING MANAGERS (Code:Realty-IM)

- Must have an existing U.S. and/or Europe visa or with extensive travel experience
- College graduate from reputable college or university
- With at least five (5) years sales management experience
- Preferably with experience in selling residential condominiums
- With excellent communication, presentation and negotiation skills
- Must be aggressive, results-driven, self directed and a team player

NETWORK MARKETING MANAGER (Code: Realty-Network)

- At least ten (ten) years sales management experience managing real estate broker companies/network
- Preferably with experience in selling residential condominium
- Highly motivated and possess leadership skills
- Must have extensive network of real estate brokers

IT MANAGER (Code: Realty-IT)

- With at least ten (10) years of IT experience preferably in real estate and at least five (5) years of IT project management experience
- Bachelors/Degree in Computer Science/Computer Engineering or other relevant business courses
- Must have strong problem solving, analytical and communication skills
- Able to translate functional business requirements into technical requrements
- Is well organized, can handle multiple projects, works well in teams, and able to work under pressure
- Knowledgeable in business process

TRAINING MANAGER (Code: Realty-Trng)

- Graduate of Behavioral Science or Psychology or any related course
- With at least five (5) years experience in training, preferably in the field of real estate sales
- With excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills
- Can work under pressure, mature, dynamic and hardworking

LEGAL MANAGER (Code: Realty-Legal)

- With at least ten (10) years experience in real estate company
- Graduate of Law
- Must belong to top 20% of graduating class
- Can do both office and field work
- Must be result oriented, assertive and able to work under extreme pressure

IT OFFICER (Code: Realty- IT)

- Graduate of Computer Science/Information Technology course
- With at least one (1) year experience in Web Development (HTML, PHP, Java Script)
- Preferably with exposure in standard software development and project management methodologist
- Results oriented, resourceful, highly organized and hardworking

Competitive package and tremendous opportunities for career growth and development awaits successful candidates.
Qualified applicants are invited to send their resume, transcript of records and 2 x 2 picture to:
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- Fresh graduates are also encouraged to apply.

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Assistant Gallery Manager

25-30 years old; with Bachelors Degree from a very reputable university; computer literate; willing to learn; excellent English Language Skills

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Competitive Salary Package

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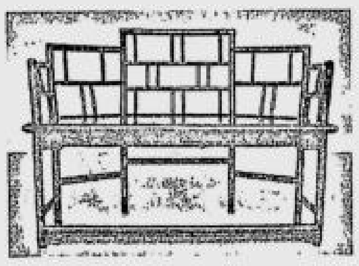

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NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY

Vacancy No: 2007/01 ALD
Date Issued: 4 February 2007
Closing Date: 16 February 2007

POST TITLE : **National Disaster Response Advisor (NDRA) – Philippines**
ENTRY LEVEL : ALD Band A3
OFFICE AND LOCATION : UNDP - Manila
TYPE OF APPOINTMENT : Activities of Limited Duration (ALD)

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

A. Organization setting:

The NDRA will work under the overall supervision of the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and with the support from the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs-Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (OCHA-ROAP) and its Regional Disaster Response Advisor (RDRA).

B. Job content:

The responsibility of the NDRA is to provide timely and appropriate assistance in the area of disaster response and response preparedness to the RC and the United Nations Disaster Management Team (UNDMT), as well as the Government of the Philippines (GoP).

During times of normalcy

- Assist in raising awareness within the UN system and the GoP of the various UN tools, services and mechanisms available for emergency response and response preparedness.
- Promote within the UNDMT and the GoP the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action in close cooperation/ collaboration with the OCHA RDRA, UNDP Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor and ISDR Secretariat, particularly in relation to the Cluster 5 - Strengthen Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response.
- Provide support to the UNDMT in strengthening its disaster response capacity including effective linkages with the national authorities as well as humanitarian partners.
- Facilitate the elaboration and/or update of the UN Inter-agency Disaster Response Plan
- Establish direct contact with the National Disaster Coordination Council (NDCC) and its member agencies, as may be necessary
- Provide the Secretariat function to the UNDMT
- Inform the UNDMT about the likely hazards that could trigger a disaster in the country
- Promote all disaster response preparedness activities in coordination with the NDCC and humanitarian partners
- Promote the setup of an Humanitarian Information Management System for disaster and emergency situations that could be used by the UN in the country as well as by the NDCC and its member agencies
- Facilitate the implementation of the Cluster Approach within the in-country IASC
- Identify training needs of the UNDMT and the national and local DCCs in the field of disaster response and response preparedness.

In case of imminent danger (when the arrival of a disaster can be anticipated)

- Facilitate the setting-up of coordination mechanisms and implementation of lines of action specified in the UN Inter-Agency Response Plan
- During the typhoon or monsoon season, monitor potential emergency situations through the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) and the NDCC's Operations Center.
- Facilitate information sharing with the UNDMT/ in country IASC following mechanisms of alert and information dissemination already established
- Devise a system of alerting the Resident Coordinator, the UNDMT and in-country IASC, and if early warning information indicates a probable impact within the next 24-48 hours
- Assist in the setting-up of an Emergency Operations Centre within the UN as warranted by the emerging situation and facilitate the organization of coordination meetings within the UNDMT and with the NDCC
- Monitor ongoing and new developments regarding natural disasters and draft field situation reports as required or as often as necessary

During disaster or emergency situations

- Apply the coordination mechanisms and lines of action defined in the UN Inter-Agency Disaster Response, in country IASC Plan
- Participate in Inter-Agency needs assessment missions, and be prepared to lead these missions as required
- Contribute in the analysis and evaluation of the request for international assistance and recommend appropriate actions to be taken to the UNDMT
- Contribute in the elaboration of the final report of the emergency and in case a Flash Appeal is launched, on its follow-up
- Assist the UNRC in the follow up of emergency funds channeled through OCHA for disaster response activities and ensure timely reporting on the use of such funds.
- Assist the RC to facilitate the deployment/reception of UNDAC missions
- Assist in the handover of tasks related to the relief phase e.g. UNDAC missions to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as a lead of the Early Recovery Cluster
- Be ready to be deployed by OCHA in case of natural disasters in the region.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Education: Master's Degree
- Minimum of four years of experience in management of natural disasters, humanitarian emergencies, emergency preparedness, crisis/emergency relief management, rehabilitation and development.
- Applicants not meeting these requirements will be evaluated based on their education and direct relevant work experience.

The selected candidate will receive a salary that is commensurate with his/her background and work experience.
Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P. 11), available in our website www.undp.org.ph/jobs/ and send to:

Human Resources Unit
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower I, RCBC Plaza
Ayala Ave., cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

Indicating the Vacancy No. and Post Title on or before 16 February 2007. Kindly note that only completed P.11 forms will be reviewed

UNDP is an equal opportunity employer. Please note that we will contact only the shortlisted candidates.

APPROVED:

(Sgd.) Roberto Carandang
Assistant Resident Representative (A)

UN DP

The Integrated Programme for the Empowerment of Indigenous Peoples and Sustainable Development of Ancestral Domains (IP-EIPSDADS), funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Department of Agrarian Reform is in search of qualified candidates for the posts of Technical Assistant and Finance & Administrative Assistant to be based at the DAR Office in Quezon City.

Technical Assistant – under the direct supervision of the National Project Director

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Report regularly at the DAR FAPsO and provide technical assistance to the Project Coordinator in managing the day-to-day coordinative work between and among DAR, NCIP, the Consultancy Firm and other agencies in the implementation of the various components of the programme.
2. Conducts initial review of prepared ADSDPP for final review by the National Project Coordinator.
3. Conducts initial review of project proposals for funding of environmental projects by the GEF.
4. Assist in the preparation of the Annual Work and Financial Plan for review by the Technical Working Group and approval by the Project Advisory Committee.
5. Prepare and maintain Minutes of Meetings of the Technical Working Group and Project Advisory Committee.
6. Prepare reports especially the consolidation of monthly, quarterly and annual progress reports submitted to the Project Office for review by the Project Coordinator.
7. Attend and provide substantive inputs to meetings, consultations and trainings with field workers and IP communities related to the project activities.
8. Provide general administrative support to the Project Coordinator including, but not limited to, arranging meetings and travel, filling out, faxing and/or mailing documents; and running occasional out of office errands.
9. Perform other project related activities which may be assigned by the Project Coordinator.

Qualifications :

- Bachelor's Degree in any social science course
- Familiarity and knowledge of the ARC Development Framework of the Department of Agrarian Reform, as well as the preparation of Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP) is an advantage.
- Experience in development planning and implementation of community-driven type of projects.
- Familiarity with issues of indigenous peoples (IP) and experience working with IP communities is an advantage.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.
- Demonstrate ability to work cooperatively with others in the performance of tasks.
- Networking experience with NCIP and relevant DAR offices an advantage.
- Ability to work as part of a team, to tight deadlines as required.
- Willing and able to travel across the Philippines
- Proficient in the use of various MS office application softwares such as Word, Excel, Powerpoint, among others.

Finance and Administrative Assistant – under the supervision of the National Project Coordinator

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Ensure that administrative and financing directives and guidelines of the FAPsO and UNDP are reflected in all project activities;
2. Take primary responsibility for the financial aspects of Annual Work & Financial Plan preparation;
3. Ensure the timely funding requests and liquidation of expenditures of the project funds;
4. Prepare the application of procurement procedures in accordance with Government & UNDP policies, rules and regulations;
5. Report regularly at the DAR FAPsO and provide clerical and administrative support to the National Project Coordinator and the Technical Assistant;
6. In collaboration with the Project Team Members, establish and maintain a comprehensive filing system in the project office
7. Provide general finance and administrative support to the National Project Coordinator and Technical Assistants including, but not limited to, arranging meetings and travel, filing, faxing and/or mailing documents; and running occasional out of office errands;
8. Perform other project-related activities which may be assigned by the National Project Coordinator.

Qualifications :

- Bachelor's Degree in any social science course.
- Familiarity and knowledge of the ARC Development Framework of the Department of Agrarian Reform, as well as the preparation of Ancestral Domain Sustainable Development and Protection Plan (ADSDPP) is an advantage.
- Experience in finance and administrative work.
- Experience in development planning and implementation of community-driven type of projects.
- Experience working with IP communities is an advantage.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.
- Demonstrate ability to work cooperatively with others in the performance of tasks.
- Networking experience with NCIP and relevant DAR offices an advantage.
- Ability to work as part of a team, to tight deadlines as required.
- Proficient in the use of various MS office application softwares such as Word, Excel, Powerpoint, among others.

The United Nations strongly encourages applications from qualified women candidates.

While the project offers an equal employment opportunity, only Filipino professionals are invited for these specific posts.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before 14 February 2007. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue 1226 Makati City (via courier) or P.O. Box 7285 Domestic Airport Post Office Lock Box 1300 Domestic Road, Pasay City (via airmail), tel. nos. (63 2) 901 0100.

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until 14 February 2007.

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6819 Ayala Ave., Makati City

9th Floor PBCom Plaza,
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2nd Floor ICT Bldg 1, Riverbanks
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• Graduate of Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Advertising, or any design related courses; • Must have knowledge & experience working with Photoshop, Illustrator or Freehand, and other multi-media software; • Must be creative, artistic, & motivated; • Knowledge in operations of prepress equipments, i.e. scanners, imagesetters, etc. will be a great advantage.

All applicants must be between 20-35 years old and preferably a born-again Christian. We especially welcome candidates who reside in Quezon City, Caloocan, Bulacan areas or northern parts of Metro Manila. Please send your resumé with cover letter clearly indicating only one or the other of the above positions you are applying for, a recent ID photo, samples of your work, xeroxed copy of Transcript of Records, and your LANDLINE phone number to:

P.O. Box 408
Greenhills, San Juan 1502
Metro Manila

Or email the above requirements to:
jclcpi_hrd@yahoo.com

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6311921; 6329547; 6316307; 6316356; 6339443; 6316310

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Requirements:
Preferably a CPA
Proficient with MS Word, Excel, and ACCPAC
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Pleasant, fast learner, hardworking, patient with details, and can work long hours
Can start immediately

PROJECT ACCOUNTING STAFF

Requirements:
Bachelor's degree in Accountancy, preferably a CPA
Proficient with MS Word, Excel, and ACCPAC
With 2 years relevant working experience specializing in Accounting preferably from a construction company
Pleasant, fast learner, hardworking, patient with details, and can work long hours.
Can start immediately

PROJECT INVENTORY STAFF/PURCHASER (3)

Requirements:
- Must be an accounting graduate
- Preferably with experience in canvassing, purchasing, and monitoring of actual deliveries
- Trustworthy, smart, resourceful willing to take additional workload when needed.
  Can start immediately

PROJECT COST STAFF (2)

Bachelor's degree in Accountancy,
Proficient with MS Word, Excel, and ACCPAC
With 1 year relevant working experience specializing in Accounting preferably from a construction company
Pleasant, fast learner, hardworking, patient with details, and can work long hours.
Can start immediately

PURCHASING OFFICER (1)

Male/Female
Degree holder, preferably Civil/Industrial Engineering Degree
At least 3 years work experience in purchasing functions, preferably in the housing or construction business
Computer literate with advanced skills in MS Office
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Inclined towards community development.
Applicants must be willing to work in Quezon City or Parañaque.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISORS (4)

Licensed Civil Engineer or Architect.
Applicants must be willing to work in Quezon City or Parañaque.
With exposure to residential villages/ communities
with background in community development
Preferably 30 years old and above
Full-Time and Contract position available

HOW TO APPLY:
Submit your updated resume, transcript of records, & board certificate or license ASAP to:

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12 F PHINMA Plaza #39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center Makati City 1200
Tel no. (632) 8700451/Fax no. (632) 8700466 • e-mail: hdpicson@phinma.com.ph

COST ENGINEER/ QUANTITY SURVEYOR (1)

Must be a Licensed Engineer (electrical, civil, mechanical).
Proficient with AutoCAD 2000 or higher, MS Office.
Must be willing to do fieldwork
Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Engineering - Civil/Construction or equivalent.

SANITARY ENGINEER (1)

Must be a Licensed Engineer (Chemical, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical/Electronic, Environmental/ Health/Safety or equivalent.)
Proficient in AutoCAD 2000 or higher, MS Office.
At least 2 years of working experience in the related field is required for this position.
Must be willing to do fieldwork.

ELECTRICAL ENGINEEER (1)

Must be a Licensed Electrical/Electronic Engineer or equivalent.
Proficinet with AutoCAD 2000 or higher, MS Office.
At least 2 years of working experience in the same field
Must be willing to do fieldwork

COST ENGINEER/ QUANTITY SURVEYOR (1)

Candidate must be a Licensed Engineer (electrical, civil, mechanical).
Required skills: AutoCAD 2000 or higher, MS Office.
Preferably 1-4 yrs experienced employees specializing in Engineering - Civil/Construction or equivalent.
Full-Time and Contract position available.

MECHANICAL ENGINEER (1)

Must be a Licensed Mechanical Engineer.
Proficient in AutoCAD 2000 or higher, MS Office.
At least 2 years of working experience in design preferably with high-rise condominiums
With good communication skills and must be a teamplayer.
Applicants must be willing to do fieldwork

CIVIL/STRUCTURAL ENGINEER (1)

Must be a Licensed Civil Engineer, Architecture or equivalent.
Proficient in AutoCAD 2000 or higher.
At least 2 years working experience in design preferably high-rise condominiums.
Good communication skills, and proficient in MS Office
Must be a teamplayer and flexible
Willing to do fieldwork

ARCHITECTS (1)

Must be a Licensed Civil Engineer, Architecture/Urban Studies or equivalent.
At least 2 years working experience in design preferably high-rise condominiums.
Proficient in communication skills, AutoCAD 2000 or higher, MS Office
Must be a teamplayer and flexible, & willing to do fieldwork.

HOW TO APPLY:
Submit your updated resume, transcript of records, & board certificate or license **NOT LATER THAN February 28, 2007** to:

PHINMA-HRD Recruitment &Training
12 F PHINMA Plaza #39 Plaza Drive, Rockwell Center Makati City 1200
Tel no. (632) 8700451/Fax no. (632) 8700466 • e-mail: hdpicson@phinma.com.ph

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Senior Graphic Designer

The person hired will assist in the development of templates for common desktop publishing and design applications used across the Firm, execute design and desktop publishing assignments for global, regional and local marketing staff, and identify and implement design and process enhancements to improve the quality, consistency and cost-effectiveness of design services within the Firm.

He/she must have the following credentials:

- 5-7 years of experience in graphic design
- 2-3 years working within defined corporate identity standards
- Relevant degree/formal education, certification or experience in QuarkXpress, Photoshop, Illustrator, Adobe Acrobat, InDesign
- Web design experience a plus
- Experience working in a global organization a plus
- Excellent English communication skills, both oral and written
- Demonstrated understanding of design concepts and applications
- Able to work flexible hours
- Experience participating in and contributing to corporate identity program
- Experience managing the design process from brief to completed files
- Completed formal qualification in design or equivalent experience
- Experience working as part of a design team

Web Content Specialist

The person hired will complete daily content updates to our global public web site, on behalf of the marketing network, and will play an important supporting role in completing longer-term projects and enhancements that will improve the site's usability.

He/she must have the following credentials:

- Minimum of one year experience managing web content and design in a professional setting
- Minimum of one year experience drafting and editing web copy
- Intermediate or better knowledge of HTML
- Bachelor's degree in business, marketing, communications, journalism or English
- Minimum of one year experience using WebTrends or similar usage reporting software
- Proficient in MS Word, PowerPoint and Excel
- Strong attention to detail and accuracy
- Excellent oral and written English (spelling, grammar) skills
- Strong analytical, organizational and follow-up skills
- Able to prioritize and work independently with limited supervision
- Able to work flexible hours

Qualified applicants may submit their cover letter, resume, 2x2 picture, portfolio of sample works and other credentials to bmgsm.hr@bakernet.com until February 8, 2007.

B&M Global Services Manila, Inc., is a subsidiary of Baker & McKenzie International B.V., a support services provider to Baker & McKenzie International, a Swiss Verein of member law firms around the world. Neither B&M Global Services Manila, Inc., nor Baker & McKenzie International B.V., is engaged in the practice of law.

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- Honest and trustworthy
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- Have excellent verbal and written communication skills in English
- Can work effectively under pressure and with minimal supervision
- Knowledgeable in Powerpoint, Microsoft Excel, Word and other presentation software
- Willing to work extended hours

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVE (MR-1-07)
- A graduate of a 4-year course
- Not more than 30 years old
- Preferably, but not necessary, experienced in sales and promotions as a Medical Representative
- Proficient in working with numbers
- Willing to work extended hours, even on Holidays
- Creative and innovative in formulating sales strategies
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Philippines

ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR (AS-1-07)
- A graduate of BS in Accountancy
- Not more than 40 years old
- Preferably with 5 years experience in a pharmaceutical industry
- Detail-oriented, meticulous, has an eye for detail
- Well-versed in the different policies and rules of BIR, SSS, Philhealth, Pag-ibig and other government agencies
- Strong leadership ability

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY (ES-1-07)
- Female, not more than 30 years old
- A graduate of any business related course
- Highly proficient in verbal and written communication
- Can compose business letters
- Highly organized and systematic

ACCOUNTING CLERK (AC-1-07)
- Female, not more than 28 years old
- A graduate of any business related course
- Must have 18 or more units in Accounting

PHARMACIST (PH-1-07)
- Female, between 25-30 years old
- Licensed
- Competent in inventory system
- Well-versed with BFAD documentation & regulations

HUMAN RESOURCE ASSISTANT (HRA-1-07)
- Female, not more than 30 years old
- A graduate of Psychology or Business related course
- At least 2 years experience in HR work: recruitment, payroll; processing, SSS, Philhealth, Pag-ibig and insurance benefits or claims; memo writing; maintenance and updating of 201 files, monitoring absences and tardiness; training, etc.

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Please submit a comprehensive resumé (detailing the scope of work, pay and track record) indicating the position code with recent colored 2x2 picture on or before February 12, 2007 to:

HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
26-B 26th Floor, Chatham House Condominium
Corner V.A. Rufino & Valero Sts.
Salcedo Village, Makati City
or email to proselmanila@pldtsl.net

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ACCOUNTING MANAGER
- Female, at least 30 years of age with pleasing personality
- Must be a licensed Certified Public Accountant
- With at least 3 years supervisory or managerial experience
- Highly experience in all aspects of accounting, preparation of budget and financial statements
- Self driven, independent and result oriented
- Strong interpersonal and decision making skills
- Mature and an excellent team player
- Knowledgeable in computerized accounting system
- Personable, honest and has excellent communication skills
- Computer Literate

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
- Male or Female, aged 21 to 30 years old
- A graduate of 4 year course preferably Food Technology, Chemistry or any related courses
- Must have the knowledge and experience in the application of various Food Ingredients in the Baking, Snack and Food Service Industries
- Practical knowledge in bread and cake baking a definite advantage
- Can coordinate with the various manufacturing units, end-users, sales and distributors
- Willing to travel anywhere in the Philippines and the Asian Region
- Personable, honest and has excellent communication skills
- Computer Literate
- Knows how to drive

TECHNICAL BAKERS
- Male, preferably a graduate of any 4 year course
- With at least 3-5 years working experience in a bakery environment
- Knowledge in making breads, cakes and pastries
- Can handle baking seminars and site baking demonstrations
- Experience in selling baking ingredients like flour, bread improvers and fats and oils
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Willing to travel anywhere in the Philippines

QUALITY CONTROL SPECIALISTS
- Bachelor's degree in any field preferably Foodtech, Chemistry graduate
- Not more than 30 years old
- Experience in Manufacturing as R&D a definite advantage
- With knowledge and experience in the application of food ingredients in the baking, snack and food service industries
- Can coordinate well with various manufacturing units, end-users, sales and distributors
- Computer Literate
- Willing to travel anywhere in the Philippines

MARKETING ASSISTANT
- Female, a graduate of BSC Major in Marketing, not over 30 years old
- With at least 1 year marketing related work experience an advantage
- With good interpersonal skills
- With pleasing personality and has excellent communication skills
- Computer Literate (MS Word, Adobe Photoshop/ Corel Draw)
- Fresh graduates are also welcome to apply.

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
- Male or Female, not more than 26 years old
- BSC Accountancy graduate from a reputable school with good scholastic records
- Knowledge in General Accounting Functions such as Payables, Receivables, Payrolls, and Inventory a definite advantage
- Highly Computer Literate and can work long hours
- Hardworking, trustworthy and dependable

RECEPTIONIST
- Female, a graduate of any 4 year course from a reputable school
- With at least 1 year working experience
- With pleasing personality, fluent in both oral and written English
- Hardworking, honest, reliable and responsible
- Computer literate and multi- tasker

IMPORT CLERK
- Male or Female not more than 28 years old
- A graduate of any 4-year business course
- With at least 1 year experience in import and export transactions
- Good inter-personal skills and results oriented
- Able to communicate in oral and written English
- Computer literate and can work independently

MESSENGER/COLLECTOR
- Male, preferably a graduate of any business course,
- Not more than 30 years old
- Hardworking, honest, trustworthy and dependable
- With at least 1 year experience in field work and is a multi-tasker
- Familiar with Metro Manila areas and nearby provinces
- Can drive a Motorcycle

Send your resumé with 2x2 ID picture, application letter and transcript of records to the HR Head, Suite 1104, 11th Floor, Robinsons Galleria Corporate Center, Edsa corner Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City or e-mail your applications to: **hrd@goodmanfielder.com.ph.** Only qualified applicants will be notified.

All applications will be treated with the strictest confidentiality.
Deadline of Application: February 23, 2007.

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- Male (at least 5'8" tall) or Female (at least 5'4" tall) with pleasing personality
- Preferably with at least 1 to 3 years experience
- Must know how to drive and with a valid driver's license

SERVICE ADVISERS
- Graduate of Mechanical Engineering or any business related courses
- With excellent human relations skills
- Highly personable; with very pleasing personality
- Male (at least 5'8" tall) or Female (at least 5'4" tall)
- Preferably with high scholastic standing and a student leader
- With excellent oral and written communication skills
- Knowledgeable in the use of Internet and MS Office applications
- Possesses a valid professional driver's license

FINANCE ASSISTANTS / FINANCE SUPERVISOR / INTERNAL AUDIT SUPERVISOR
- Male of Female, graduate of BS Accountancy
- Preferably a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Has gained at least 3 years relevant work experience for supervisory positions
- With good scholastic standing
- Excellent verbal and written communications skills
- With pleasing personality

OFFICE ASSISTANTS
(Claims, Underwriting, Sales Administration, Workstation Coordinator, Telephonist)
- Male or Female, graduate of any 4-year course
- With good scholastic standing
- Good verbal and written communications skills
- Good PC skills
- Hardworking, Resourceful, thorough and organized
- Can work with minimum supervision
- With pleasing personality

Interested qualified applicants are invited to submit their comprehensive resumé, photocopy of transcript of records and 2x2 photo to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION
Carworld Building, San Fernando-Olongapo Highway
City of San Fernando, Pampanga
Phone Number: (045)963.2525 loc: 537, 539, 581
Telefax: (045)961.6680; Mobile Number: 0928.774.2945
Email address: hrmd@lausgroup.com.ph
www.lausgroup.com.ph

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- Willing to work full time

GRAPHIC LAYOUT ARTIST
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Bring resumé and recent 2x2 ID picture to:

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14C Bayan-bayan Ave.,
Concepcion I, Marikina City
948-4958

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Please send curriculum vitaé with photo not later than **9 February 2007:**

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10/F Pacific Star Building, Makati Avenue, Makati City
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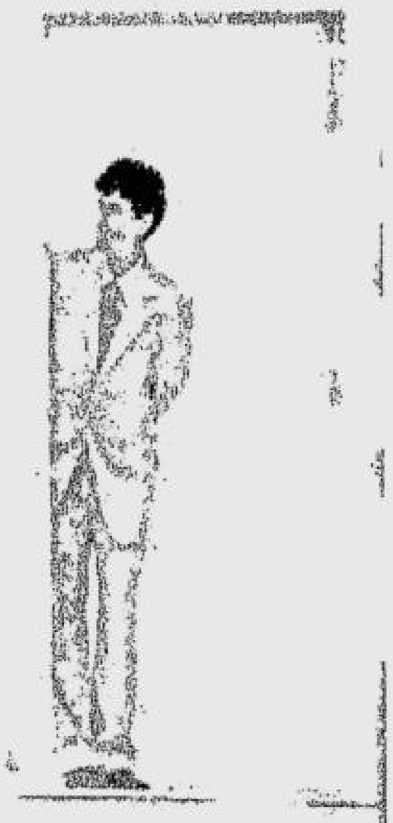

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- Knowledgeable in Struts

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- Working background on any development tools and/or language/ solution as follows:
  - **Cobol (Mainframe, AS400, RPG400) w/DB2 background**
  - **ASP/VB.Net** or **C#**
  - **Java**
  - **Oracle/SQL**
- With working background on applications in life insurance an advantage

Interested applicants are invited to send in their resumé at:
Email: careers@LST.com.ph
Post: 27/F The Orient Square Bldg., F. Ortigas Jr. Road
(formerly Emerald Ave.), Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

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– With Offshore Exp
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5/F First Maritime Place, 7458 Bagtican St.,
San Antonio Village, Makati City

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P 15,500 / Month

After 6 months + Sales Commission
(14,000/mo. for the first 5 months Probation/training including benefits)
We want Honest and Hardworking

SALES LADIES

For Manila and Cebu shops

REQUIREMENTS :	MIN. HEIGHT	MAX. WAISTLINE
Female 19-26 years old	5'5"	24"
Fluent in English	5'6"	25"
At least 2 years in college	5'7"	26"

Please bring your resume with 2x2 picture at:

CORSO MARCONI MAKATI
2305 Marconi cor. Morse St., Sn. Isidro, Makati
Tel. No. 843-3213

PRIMA LINEA AYALA CEBU
Ground Flr., Ayala Center, Cebu City (032) 231-5517

Department of Science and Technology
PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM
Office of the Executive Director
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City

LIST OF VACANT POSITIONS

1. CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER - SG 24

Qualifications: Master's Degree
4 years in position/s involving management and supervision
24 hours training in management and supervision
Career Service Professional Eligibility

2. SCIENCE RESEARCH SPECIALIST II - SG 16

Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job
With experience and training on managing and monitoring Special projects and developing proposals
Career Service Professional Eligibility

3. PROJECT DEVELOPMENT OFFICER III - SG 18

Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree relevant to the job
Preferably Licensed Civil Engineer with experience in Infrastructure projects
Career Service Professional Eligibility

4. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT III - SG 9

Qualifications: Completion of 2 years studies in college
Computer Literate
4 hours of relevant training
Career Service Sub-Professional Eligibility

Please send your application letter and curriculum vitae (6 copies) to:
The Office of the Executive Director
Philippine Science High School System
Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 9240639; 9263137

Deadline for submission of application: February 15, 2007

POEA 24-HR HOTLINES
722-1144 • 722-1155

JOB OPPORTUNITY

The **MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY** needs applicants for **CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY INSPECTOR** under the Airport Security Inspectorate Office (ASIO).

QUALIFICATIONS:

- **EDUCATION:** Bachelor's Degree (preferably Bachelor of Science in Criminology);
- **AGE:** Between 22 to 30 years old;
- **HEIGHT:** 5'8" (Male); 5'4" (Female);
- Must be computer literate (proficient in MS Office);
- Must have good oral and written communication skills; Preferably with basic training in Aviation Security Course and a Career Service Professional Eligibility.

SUBMIT:

1. Resume / Personal Data Sheet (PDS);
2. Recent 2x2 picture;
3. Latest Community Tax Certificate;
4. Photocopy of Diploma or Transcript of Records;
5. Photocopy of Certificate of training / seminars attended;
6. Certificate of Eligibility Rating (CSC), if any;
7. NBI Clearance.

Apply personally and bring original copy of item nos. 4, 5, 6 and 7 for authentication to:

LBP SERVICE CORPORATION
Unit C & D, 21/F Petron Megaplaza Building
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Trunkline: (02) 843-2077 locals 213 / 214

Last day for submission of application is on February 14, 2007

GREIF Greif Philippines Inc., a global manufacturer of packaging products with head offices in the U.S.A. has an opening for:

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- At least 23 years old
- College Graduate of any business course
- Minimum of 2 years in sales or marketing experience in packaging products
- Selling exposure to institutional, dealer & retail accounts
- Must be a licensed driver

Interested applicants are advised to send their application letters and resumé by email to: admin@greif.com.ph or fax to 674-1456. You can also mail to:

GENERAL MANAGER
P.O. Box No. 13905
Ortigas Center Post Office
Ortigas Center 1605
Pasig City

Save the Children

Save the Children Federation, Inc. is a US-based non-profit organization working in over forty countries world wide. Save the Children aims to create lasting, positive change in the lives of disadvantaged children and adolescents by mobilizing communities in projects directed at improving children's health, education and economic opportunities. Save the Children Philippines Country Office has been operating in the Philippines for nearly 25 years and has operations and projects in West Visayas, Metro Manila, the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and Central Mindanao. Save the Children is searching for qualified candidates for the:

ASCEND Project

(Assistance for the Comprehensive Educational Development of Mindanao)

Program Coordinator – (Code: ASCEND PC)

(One per location: Cotabato, Maguindanao, Zamboanga del Sur, Sultan Kudarat)

Responsible for generating and causing partners' and stakeholders' support and cooperation as well as participation in the planning and execution of program interventions/activities. Shall facilitate the formulation of implementation arrangements as well as sustainability mechanisms for the different program components; backstop the Education Team Leader

- Plan and organize program activities appropriate to each geographic area covered;
- Design and adopt community-level strategies to operationalize plans and programs;
- Do community advocacy and mobilization, and ensure the participation of community partners in program processes and activities;
- Monitor and evaluate progress of implementation, identify concerns or issues as well as action or decision points;
- Prepare and submit reports- progress, quarterly, annual, etc.

Competencies and Qualification Requirements:

- Graduate of a four-year degree program, preferably in Education
- Experience of at least two years in community mobilization, or in implementing education development projects
- Resident of the province where he/she will serve as Coordinator
- Achievement orientation, Time management, Initiative, Interpersonal skills, Leading communities, Positive work attitude, Program implementation, Respect for confidentiality, Developing sustainability, Cultural awareness and sensitivity, Organizational and project commitment, Training skills and competencies
- Analytical skills, Conceptual thinking, Program design and Written communication skills and competencies are also preferred

Communication, Documentation and Program Learning Coordinator – (Code:ASCEND CDPLC)

Responsible for the preparation of communication products that will enhance program visibility; documentation of implementation processes, progress and significant headways; and, coordination and preparation of materials that capture ASCEND best practices and strategies for scale up and sustainability.

- Handle the communication outreach requirements of the program which includes media relations and preparation of visibility products such as news stories, weekly highlights, newsletter, flyers, etc;
- Provide the lead in ensuring that M&E activities are carried out on time;
- Document program coordination and implementation experiences and package the same for publication and/or technical presentation;
- Coordinate on-going learning through the sharing and packaging of programs, modules and best practices for strategic scale up and sustainability;
- Lead in the preparation of progress reports, quarterly and annual reports

Competencies and Qualification Requirements:

- Graduate of a four-year degree program, preferably in Education or Communication Development
- Experience of at least two years in community mobilization, or in implementing education development projects
- Achievement orientation, Time management, Initiative, Interpersonal skills, Leading communities, Positive work attitude, Program implementation, Respect for confidentiality, Developing sustainability, Cultural awareness and sensitivity, Organizational and project commitment, Written communication skills and competencies
- Analytical skills, Conceptual thinking, Training skills, Program design competencies are also preferred

Based in Davao ASCEND office; will require periodic travel to program/project offices Cotabato, Maguindanao, Zamboanga del Sur, Sulu, Sultan Kudarat

Finance and Administrative Officer (Code: ASCEND AFO)

Responsible for:

- Reporting directly to the Deputy Country Director for Finance and Administration (Country Office) and the ASCEND Project Manager, responsible for ensuring that ASCEND Project effectively meets the financial and management standards and reporting requirements of Save the Children, the project, and the funding agency
- In collaboration and co-ordination with the Finance Officer, National Coordinator for Human Resources, and the Administrative Officer in the Country Office, s/he ensures that support services needed by the project are efficiently and delivered on time within office policies and guidelines.
- Responsible for supervising the work of the Accountant, Finance/Admin Assistant and Project Driver and ensures that all job responsibilities are carried out according to SC standards

Specific Duties

- Supervision of Project Admin and Finance Staffs including the Accountant, Finance and Admin Assistant and Project Driver/Utilities
- Ensures SC policies and procedures are understood and adhered to in deployment of funds, processing of financial transactions and documentation, reconciliation of accounts, inventories and control of project facilities and capital assets.
- Ensures accurate and timely preparation and recording of regular financial and administration reports.
- Performs initial recruitment and orientation of new staff, benefits administration, 201 file maintenance and other HR administration work
- Oversees the performance of facilities and equipment administration and upkeep, canvassing, office supplies and mail

Competencies and Qualification Requirements:

- Graduate of Bachelor's Degree in Business and Economics, Major in Accountancy; CPA
- Audit background preferred but not required
- Experience of at least three (3) years in Finance and Admin work preferably in an NGO environment
- Concern for accuracy, Respect for Confidentiality, Time management , Accounting, Analytical skills, Basic computer skills, Budgeting, Forecasting, Compliance. Awareness of allied organizations, Company knowledge **Leadership:** Leadership, Management-centered achievement orientation, Positive managerial attitude, Resourcefulness, Analytical skills, Developing staff, Interpersonal skills, Project and program implementation skills

Based in Davao ASCEND office; will require periodic travel to program/project offices Cotabato, Maguindanao, Zamboanga del Sur, Sulu, Sultan Kudarat

Geographical Coverage: ASCEND's areas of operations are: Cotabato, Maguindanao, Zamboanga del Sur, Sulu, Sultan Kudarat

Core Competencies: Accountability, Integrity, Development Orientation, Child-centeredness, Teamwork, Transparency, Passion for Excellence, and Results Orientation.

Qualified applicants may send their resumes

By email: **HR_Recruitment@savechildren.org** (please indicate respective position code)
By mail – Save the Children Federation, Inc.
(if in MetroManila) No. 1 Encarnacion Street corner Lapu-Lapu Avenue, Magallanes Village, Makati City, Metro Manila (Fax 632-852-0215)
(if in Mindanao) #8 Agno River St., Rivera Village. J.P. Rizal Laurel Avenue, Davao City (Fax: (082) 228-6076

FT

FINANCIAL TIMES

The *Financial Times*, one of the world's top sources of business news and information, requires additional personnel for its accounts team due to recent staff promotion. The ideal candidates should meet the attributes and formal skills enumerated below and must be able to start as soon as possible. Attractive remuneration package awaits those who will be hired.

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- ➢ Graduate of BS Accountancy with good scholastic records
- ➢ At least 3 years work experience in receivables/payables management and bank transactions (local and overseas) for a multinational company
- ➢ Adept in using Sun accounting system
- ➢ Well-versed in MS Office applications, specifically intermediate Excel
- ➢ Excellent oral and written English skills, interpersonal skills and telephone etiquette
- ➢ Willing and able to work on variable shift schedule as required
- ➢ Responsible, motivated and can work with minimum supervision and as part of a team

Interested applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph to **The HR and Administration Manager** at the address below not later than February 9, 2007:

Financial Times Philippines
42nd Floor, Philamlife Tower,
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Visit our website www.ft.com

MAN Diesel Philippines, Inc.

Is in need of A WELL QUALIFIED

ACCOUNTING CLERK

applicable for our Service Center located in Parañaque with the following qualifications:

- Female, graduate of B.S.A. (Bachelor of Science in Accountancy)
- Computer literate
- Articulate both in oral & written communication
- Strong command in English language

Interested applicants may submit their resumé in our office at:

Km. 17 West Service Road, Cervantes Compound, Brgy. Marcelo Green
South Superhighway, Parañaque City

Attention: THE MANAGER

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
@
DENR –LAMP

Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

(SG 22 - Contractual MOOE 29)

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in Communication Arts, Sociology, Community Development or any Social Science course from a reputable university, Master's degree is an advantage, 3 years relevant supervisory experience, excellent writing, planning and organizing skills, computer literate, good interpersonal relationship, highly motivated and can work effectively under pressure.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: Monitor progress of project implementation against Project Work and Financial Plan and milestones; Facilitate timely preparation of project's monitoring reports required by Project Management and Oversight Agencies; Analyze and draw lessons from monitoring reports and conduct periodic assessments; Assist in the preparation, facilitation and actual conduct of project wide assessment and planning workshops; Assist in the design and implementation and evaluation activities.

Information Education Communication Specialist

(SG 22 - Contractual MOOE 29)

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication, Development Communication, Communication Arts or any Social Science course from a reputable university, 3 years experience in an IEC position, Master's Degree is an advantage, familiar with Photoshop, PageMaker and other related software, strong interpersonal and has the ability to work effectively with wide range of stakeholders both inside and outside the public sector.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: Develop information, education and communication strategy and plan; Supervise the production of appropriate print, media and information materials; Prepare articles for newsletters, periodicals, reports and other publications and manage flow of information in the website, design and implement public relations and information activities; Develop partnerships and strategic contracts to foster effective public communications and relations; initiate and organized events to promote understanding of Land Administration and Management objectives and activities.

Information Education Communication Officer

(SG 15 - Contractual MOOE 29)

QUALIFICATIONS: Bachelor's degree in Mass Communication, Development Communication, Communication Arts or any Social Science course from a reputable university, 2 years experience in an IEC position, familiar with photography, videography, multi software applications such as Adobe, Pagemaker, Photoshop, Premier and other related software, good interpersonal relationship, highly motivated and can work effectively under pressure.

TERMS OF REFERENCE: Assist in the development of an information, education and communication strategy and plan; Prepare appropriate print, media and information materials; Assist in the design and implementation of public relations and information activities; Prepare articles for newsletters, periodicals, reports and other publication, Assist in the design and organization of events to promote understanding of Land Administration and Management objectives and activities.

Apply personally and address all applications to:

The Executive Director
Land Administration and Management Project
3/F FMB Annex C Building (formerly Secal Building)
DENR, Visayas Ave., Quezon City

Or e-mail applications may be sent to: **lamp@denr.gov.ph**
For more information call at Tel. Nos. **9281197/9252328**
Deadline for submission of applications: **February 9, 2007**

KAPIT-BISIG LABAN SA KAHIRAPAN – COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED DELIVERY OF SOCIAL SERVICES (KALAHI-CIDSS)

(the flagship anti-poverty project of the Government of the Philippines implemented by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), with funding support from the World Bank),

is in need of a

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

The Community Development Assistant will provide both administrative and technical support to the Social Development Unit (SDU) as required. His/Her work involves implementation and monitoring support, coordination and technical assistance. Reporting directly to the National Project Manager and supervised by the SDU Chief, he/she orchestrate the day-to-day activities of the SDU.

Specifically, the Community Development Assistant performs the following functions:

1. Assist in the delivery of the SDU work plan, as required by the SDU Chief, including, but not limited to researching topics, writing segments of report, organizing and/or participating in technical discussions, meetings and event;
2. Track assigned tasks/timetables, coordinate with relevant staff and provide assistance/information on work program matters;
3. Support the delivery of technical assistance to regional staff; coordinate with other units of the National Project Management Office and the DSWD for SDU-related matters;
4. Provide and carry out the full range of office support work, including managing processes and monitoring schedules related to the unit's tasks;
5. Assist in the preparation and dissemination of reports and presentations for various stakeholders; draft correspondence and proofread materials using proper grammar, punctuation and style;
6. Organize and continually update files, archives, mailing lists, etc., relating to SDU activities;
7. Perform other related tasks assigned by the Project Manager.

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Bachelor's degree in any social science discipline
2. At least 2 years experience in community development
3. Knowledge of community-driven development strategies and tools; familiar with issues related to participation, poverty-reduction, institutional reforms, etc.
4. Excellent oral and written communications skills with effective time management and organizational skills
5. Highly proficient in office applications
6. A committed team player with demonstrated interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively in a multi-disciplinary environment; able to produce high quality outputs even under pressure
7. Able to follow through on team priorities in the absence of the superiors, and respond to requests for information
8. Able to adopt to changing needs by continuous learning/training

The CDA shall receive a monthly salary of P15,825.00

Application Requirements:

a. Application letter briefly stating how you meet each of the qualification standards (maximum of 2 pages)
b. Latest CV
c. One writing sample (either field notes or field report, maximum of 5 pages)
d. A list of references (with full contact details) from previous employers

Interested applicants must submit all of the above to: Rushell Ronda, HRMDS, DSWD, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, on or before 12 February 2007

We pioneer in the emerging Nutraceutical Industry. We are in need of:

Business Development Officer

- Male/Female
- Not more than 28 years old
- Graduate of any course (Pharmacy, Nutrition and Nursing Preferred)
- Chinese Speaking is an advantage
- With pleasing personality
- Honest, hardworking and can work with little supervision

THIS IS AN URGENT REQUIREMENT, interested applicants may apply in person or send their resumé via e-mail with recent 2x2 photo to: viva_phil@yahoo.com

Viva Life Science Phils., Inc.
Unit 12 D The Valero Tower
122 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City
February 5-7, 2007 (9:00 am - 6:00 pm)

A prestigious Corporation engaged in the tourism industry is in need of the following:

Sr. Project Officer

- Bachelor's Degree in Tourism, Bus. Ad. or related courses
- 2 yrs. experience in community dev't or NGO functions, events coordination or programs dealing with LGU /8 hrs. training

Advertising Officer

- Bachelor's Degree
- 2 yrs. relevant experience /8 hrs. training

Market Specialist III

- Bachelor's Degree
- 2 yrs. relevant experience /8 hrs. training
- Preferably can speak a foreign language

Market Specialist II

- Bachelor's Degree
- 1 yr. experience /4 hrs. training
- Preferably can speak a foreign language

Market Analyst

- Bachelor's Degree
- Preferably can speak a foreign language

Public Relations Officer

- Bachelor's Degree
- Preferably can speak a foreign language

Interested parties may send their letter of intent, resumé, transcript of records, NBI and other relevant documents to:

Human Resources Division,
P.O. Box EA-459 Manila.
Only applications with complete documentation will be processed.

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
NATIONAL MUSEUM
P. Burgos Avenue, Manila 1000

VACANCY FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

POSITION : **ACCOUNTANT III**
Salary Grade : 18
Place of Assignment : Administrative Division-Manila
Qualification Standard : Bachelor's degree in Commerce/Business Administration major in Accounting
Experience : 1 or 2 years relevant experience is preferred but not required
Training : 8 hours of relevant training
Eligibility : RA1080

For inquiries, please contact the Personnel Section at Telephone No. 5276621.
Deadline for application – February 15 , 2007

Uni-Fab Metal Industries, Inc.

For Immediate Hiring

(I) DESIGNER

Requirements:

- Male
- College Graduate (Preferably Eng'g. Course)
- Proficient in AutoCAD / or ProENG Software
- 2 to 3 years in experience in any metal works, Kitchen equipment preferably, Knowledgeable in Kitchen Layout/ Design

(I) ESTIMATOR

- Female
- College Graduate (Preferably Eng'g. Course)
- Computer Literate (MS Word / Excel, etc.)
- Minimum of 1-year experience in food service as a Project / Service Estimator

To all interested applicants please send your resumé

Tel. No.(02) 520-8008;
Fax No. (02) 734-7216
and look for Ms. Rose Angeles
or email: uni-fab@pacific.net.ph

IMMEDIATE HIRING

BERNARDINO GENERAL HOSPITAL

IS IN NEED OF LICENSED:

- **NURSES**
- **PHARMACIST**
- **MED. TECH.**
- **RAD. TECH.**
- **MIDWIVES**

PLEASE CALL:

Ms. Mercy Figueroa
at 935-7213
Branch: # 680 Quirino Highway
San Bartolome, Novaliches, Q.C.

Ms. Tess Segura
at 935-5262 • 418-6684
Branch: Zabarte Road, Brgy. Kaligayahan,
Novaliches, Quezon City

JOB OPENING @ New Italian Restaurant

KITCHEN STAFF

Cooks • Dishwashers • Kitchen Helpers

DINING STAFF

Bartender • Waitresses • Waiters

Must have pleasing personality, speak good English, not more than 30 years old, at least 5'5" in height, experience in fine dining preferred.

Send resumé with photograph to Mailbox at:
Unit 1229, MEGA Plaza, ADB Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City or
email to altopalato@yahoo.com.ph

BACKGROUND

Fil-Canadian Partnership Group Philippines, Inc. is a newly re-organized company that provides Property and Facilities Management Services, in addition to Energy Management and Process Engineering Services.

Our principal, FCP Group Ltd is one of Canada's leading consulting, engineering and project Management Company serving various sectors including pharmaceuticals and bio-technology, food and beverage, pulp and paper, and industrial facilities.

We are seeking for qualified, professional individuals to be part of our team as we expand operations in Asia.

POSITIONS FOR HIRING

A. HEAD OFFICE

HEAD OF SALES & MARKETING

The successful candidate will report directly to the company president and is responsible for the overall Sales Performance of the company. He will also develop the business portfolio and prepare plans and targets of the Department in conjunction with those of the other departments.

Requirements:
- Graduate of Marketing Management or any other 4-year related business course
- With deep understanding of the company business and the Asian market.
- With at least 10 years of experience in sales in management position.
- A background in ISO Quality Management System is an advantage, and able to incorporate customer feedback system into marketing activities.
- Willing to travel in other parts of the country and Asia.
- Full-time position available.

HR & ADMIN MANAGER

The selected candidate will report directly to the company president. Responsible for planning and implementing strategies for HR development and establish appropriate systems for measuring necessary aspects for HR management.

Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree or Post Graduate Diploma/Master's Degree in Psychology, Behavioral Science, Human Resource Management or equivalent.
- Strong technical and practical knowledge of the key HR areas (Compensation and Benefits, Recruitment, Training & Development, Labor Relations and Job Profiling & Competency).
- At least 10 years of working experience in the related field
- Demonstrated ability to plan, organize and schedule department workflow to meet scheduled deadlines with accuracy.
- A background in ISO Quality Management System is an advantage.
- Able to set up employee database and update record keeping.
- Willing to work from Mondays through Saturdays.

HR ASSISTANT

The individual will be reporting to the HR Manager.

Requirements:
- Formal Education in Human Resource Management
- With at least 2 year-experience in handling and processing government-mandated benefits (SSS, HDMF etc) of employees.
- With at least 2 year-experience in handling payroll computations
- Competent communication and interaction skills, open to multi-tasking and has the ability to relate to all levels of the organization.
- Ability to process a high volume of detailed work in a short time frame.
- With very organized work habits
- Requires minimum supervision

B. ENGINEERING DIVISION

HEAD OF ENGINEERING

The successful candidate will report directly to the company president and will have frequent coordination with his counterparts in Canada. He will be responsible for the overall performance of the Engineering Management Division.

Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering
- With Professional Engineering License
- With at least 10 years of experience in Facilities and Process Engineering including HVAC, Piping, Refrigeration, Energy Conservation, material handling and electro-mechanical design. The candidate shall be familiar with GMP guidelines and will have extensive experience in EPCM related projects.
- Knowledgeable in process instrumentation and control, including PLC
- Required skills: MS Office applications and AUTOCAD
- Proficient in verbal and written communication
- A background in ISO Quality Management System and Environmental Management System is an advantage.
- Willing to undergo a series of certified training in Canada, and later on travel in other parts of the country and Asia
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status
- Full-time positions available.

SALES ENGINEER

The successful candidate will report directly to both the Heads of Engineering and Marketing & Sales and with frequent coordination with his counterparts in Canada. The candidate shall be responsible for the overall sales performance of the Engineering Management Division.

Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical and/or Electrical Engineering
- Professional Licensed in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering is preferred
- Strong background in Facilities and Process Engineering including HVAC, Piping, Refrigeration, Energy Conservation, material handling and electro-mechanical design.
- Adept in cost estimation.
- Minimum of 2 years experience in marketing and sales and customer relations
- Willing to travel out of town and undertake extensive sales and marketing fieldwork
- Required skills: MS Office applications
- Proficient in verbal and written communication
- A background in ISO Quality Management System and Environmental Management System is an advantage.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status
- Full-time positions available.

PROCESS ENGINEER

The successful candidate will be reporting directly to the Head of Engineering. He will be involved in technical audit of Clients' equipment and facilities, identify process improvement, and energy saving opportunities, cost estimation and project management. The individual will also be involved in process design, mass balance evaluations and equipment procurement.

Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering
- Individual shall be a Licensed Engineer
- With at least 5 years experience in process audit, engineering, instrumentation & control
- Required skills: MS Office applications, with proficient verbal and written communications
- Organized and analytical
- Undertake extensive fieldwork, travel out of town and visit project sites
- A background in ISO Quality Management System and Environmental Management System is an advantage.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status
- Full-time positions available.

MACHINE DESIGN ENGINEER

The successful candidate will report directly to the Head of Engineering and will have frequent coordination with his counterparts in Canada.

Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering
- The individual shall be a Licensed Professional Mechanical or Electrical Engineer
- With background in machine design for facilities and process related equipment. The proponent shall have extensive exposure in electro-mechanical engineering.
- Knowledgeable in process instrumentation and control, including PLC
- Required skills: MS Office applications and AUTOCAD
- A background in ISO Quality Management System and Environmental Management System is an advantage.
- Willing to undergo a series of certified training in Canada
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status
- Full-time positions available.

C. PROPERTY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

MKTNG & SALES OFFICER

The successful candidate will be reporting directly to both the Heads of Operations and Marketing & Sales. The individual is responsible in developing, researching and maintaining the company's customer database and records and supporting the planning, coordination and implementation of the department's programs and targets.

Requirements:
- Graduate of Marketing Management or any other 4-year related business course
- With a good grasp of marketing and sales concepts
- Willing to undertake extensive marketing fieldwork
- Able to prepare marketing tools and materials
- Excellent team players and proficient in human relations
- Knowledgeable in MS Office applications, with proficient verbal and written communications
- A background in ISO Quality Management System.
- Full-time positions available.

PROPERTY MANAGER

The successful candidate will be reporting directly to the Head of PM Operations:
- Directly responsible in supervising of all the administration, security, housekeeping and technical services personnel.
- Ensure that all company policies, management systems and procedures are in place and strictly implemented.
- Make recommendations to the Developer/Association for refurbishment/upgrading/repair and maintenance of the property.
- Responsible for the proper handling, safeguarding, monitoring and effective use of client's funds and assets.

Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, Architecture or Business Administration
- With at least 5 years working experience in the property management business
- With extensive knowledge in handling horizontal and vertical properties
- Strong background in safety and emergency preparedness
- Proficient in preparing reports, plans and targets with excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Must have strong leadership qualities and organizational skills
- Results-driven, action oriented and with effective interpersonal skills
- High level of maturity, initiative and computer literate
- A background in ISO Quality Management System and Environmental Management System is an advantage.
- Applicants should be Filipino citizens or hold relevant residence status
- Full-time positions available.

FACILITIES MANAGER / BUILDING ENGINEER

The successful candidate will be reporting directly to the Head of PM Operations:
- Responsible for the efficient and effective operations, repair and maintenance of all building facilities and equipment, such as lighting, electrical and mechanical equipment and water system.
- Develop and implement innovative programs, procedures that reduce short-term and long-term.
- Tasked to deliver prompt and effective facilities management services in support of business needs in safety work environment

Requirements:
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical or Electrical Engineering
- With professional license in mechanical or electrical engineering
- Minimum of 2 years working experience in the related field
- Background on maintenance of facilities/machinery is an advantage
- With a good grasp of energy management
- Oriented to safety and emergency preparedness
- High level of maturity, initiative and computer literate
- A background in ISO Quality Management System and Environmental Management System is an advantage.
- Full-time positions available.

PROJECT ACCOUNTANT

The successful candidate will be reporting directly to the Property Manager:
- Primarily responsible for handling financial accounting functions and daily transactions and update record keeping and financial reports
- Prepares billing statement to all building residents or tenants

Requirements:
- Graduate of BS Accountancy
- Minimum of 1 year experience as accountant
- Working knowledge of Quickbooks Systems is an advantage
- Intermediate position with good interpersonal skills, able to deal with billing inquiries
- Organized, high level of maturity, initiative and computer literate
- Willing to extend time when needed
- Full-time positions available.

Interested applicants are advised to apply on-line and send their CVs (not more than 200KB) to hr@fcpgroup.ph. CLEARLY INDICATE POSITION APPLIED FOR.

JOB Market COMPACT

Get more exposure for your ad.

Advertise in JobMarket Compact.

Inquire about the JobMarket package at 897-8808 loc 514.

Inquirer Compact available in all key cities in Luzon.

JOB Market

IMMEDIATE HIRING

FINANCE MANAGER

- CPA is definitely an advantage
- Female, not more than 38 years old
- A resident of Muntinlupa City is an advantage
- Must possess a Bachelor's Degree / College Degree in Accountancy
- With pleasing personality
- With at least 2 years of Accounting and Finance work experience, 3 years of which is in senior / managerial capacity level;
- With over-all knowledge in all phases of Accounting;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Must have high analytical skills
- Can communicate effectively with people in all levels of the organization
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'How can I get the job I really want?'

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

I AM GRADUATING FROM COLlege early this year and looking forward to a great career. All these years, I never had a chance to work, as my parents supported my studies. My elder brothers and sister are all working now, but I hear them often complain about not finding their ideal jobs.

I don't want to have the same problem when I am finally at work. My college course seems to have prepared me to be a good employee. But, as I listen to my brothers and sister, I get the feeling that there is more to college education to succeed as an employee.

Can you give me tips on how to find the job that I really want?

Hopeful Graduate

I understand your apprehension. You are moving from one world to another. You are about to enter the real world, where you will need more than what you learned from your books. Getting the job you want and succeeding in your career are not usually taught in schools. I interviewed many new entrants to the workplace who have worked for about one year. An overwhelming majority said that they use in their jobs less than 20 percent of what they learned in school.

Skills in job hunting

In a Personnel Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) survey in 1999, repeated in 2005, it was found that companies are having difficulties filling up entry-level positions because accountants, engineers, and even mass communication graduates, do not have the acceptable level of communication proficiency. Most job applicants fail the job interviews for lack of impact and due to poor communication skills.

I have always said that getting a job and doing a good job require different sets of skills. Over the years, I have learned that the people who get hired, promoted or elected are not necessarily those who are best qualified for the position but those who know how to get hired, promoted or elected.

Sadly, job hunting skills are not seriously taught in most schools.

If you truly want to get the job you want, first learn the skills to hunt for this job.

The real world

A fresh graduate must also realize that the world of work is different from the world a student usually lives in. There are adjustments needed when one goes into the real world—change of mindset, more competition, realization that things are not always what they seem to be, and need to rely more on oneself. Of course, one does not have to reinvent the wheel, as one can always find solutions to workplace problems by having good mentors and models. I wish to caution, however, that the solutions of yesterday will not always solve the problems of today or tomorrow.

Know what you want

If you want the right job for you, don't start your job hunting by looking at the classified ads. The first thing to do is look inside of you.Find out what you love to do and what you can do best. A common error of job hunters is to take the first job that comes along. Not all jobs that come your way are best suited for you. Exercise your power of choice. Companies choose from hundreds of applicants for a single job. You should also choose companies and jobs. Many are content to get what come their way, and this is one reason why in the workplace today, more than half of employees practically force themselves to come to work to do a job they don't want.

Memorieees...
stephB

Job is a means, not an end

Do you know what you really want? If you do, you have an advantage over other job hunters in the cement jungle. "If you don't know where you want to go, you might end up elsewhere," said Yogi Berra of the Yankees.

In 2000, I wrote in my book, "How To Get A Job," that if you don't know where to go, no road will take you there. Truly, the first step in getting the job you want is to know what job you want. This entails knowing your strengths, interests, kind of work you did best in school, your dreams and aspirations, etc.

Early in your career, you must realize that your job is just a means, not an end. I have seen people who worked all their lives and are poorer at age 66 than a 22-year old employee. Successful employees usually do what they love and love what they do. But that is not enough. Some fall into the trap of just loving what they do, forgetting that they also have to earn.

When looking for your ideal job that pays big money, go to companies that can afford to pay big money. Then get into a job that pays big money. Remember that not all companies can afford to pay big bucks, and not all jobs command the same pay. Usually, jobs that pay more are those that require greater knowledge, more complex decision-making, and have greater accountability for results. Easy jobs usually command peanuts. Difficult jobs get big bucks.

Access the best employers

You can increase your chances of getting the right job by knowing where to find them. Some great companies advertise job openings, others use "headhunters" to find the best talents. The best candidates for a job are usually those who already have jobs. If you are a fresh graduate, you must compete with experienced employees who are not even looking for jobs. You must realize that the competition is great and you can't find the job you want by just waiting for it.

Have a job hunting plan—much like a marketing plan. The product you will sell is yourself. Know your product, believe in it, and package it well so that it stands out above the rest. Nobody will notice you if you are just a face in the crowd. Good grooming, communication, and impact will help you get noticed.

The old way of sending resumés "to whom it may concern" does not work any more. Choose the "search engines" that can help propel you to a great career. Have a ready resumé, a business card (even if you have no business or job yet) and implement a plan to get noticed by prospective employers.

Check out the websites of prospective employers, ask around, get referred, and write the managers directly. If you know that the marketing manager of a large multinational is looking for someone with your qualification, write him or her directly. You have a better chance of getting noticed if you don't just drop your resumé in the human resource drop box where you compete with thousands of other resumés.

Get a foot in the door

The best way to get noticed and get a foot in the door of your prospective employer is through a great resume. As a human resource manager, I have thrown thousands of resumes into the trash box because they don't tell me what I need to know. For instance, information like color of the eyes, skin or hair are not relevant and should be omitted. If you want to get called for a job interview, make it easy for the hiring manager to match you with the job he or she wants to fill up. Understand that the job of a hiring manager is not to give you a job but to fill up the vacant position.

When you go to a job interview, remember that you only have one chance to make a first impression. I have three suggestions—prepare, prepare and prepare. A hiring manager does not have the time and patience—he or she has hundreds of other choices. Prepare and make him or her realize that you are what he or she is looking for.

Interview tips

You are already judged before you open your mouth. Be impressive in your bearing and grooming. Communicate well in simple English. Answer questions directly. Don't pretend that you know everything. Be polite and nice to talk to, stay calm and focused. If given the chance, ask sensible questions about the company and the job. If you want to know more about the pay, ask politely, but usually reserve it towards the end of the interview.

Go for it

When you finally pass the job interviews, make sure you have all the required documents and clearances. Prepare for physical exams, have a good diet, rest and exercise. Some companies seem to be more particular about dental (rather than mental) health. This might be too trivial, but I have seen how a great applicant failed to get the job he wants because he had bad teeth.

Lastly, if you truly want a great job, go for it. The funny thing about life is that you usually get what you go after. Here's wishing that you get your ideal job. When you get it, love it and make the most out of it. But remember, there is more to life than just a great job.

(Ernie Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm.)

The best way to write your resumé

By Ma. Esther Salcedo-Posadas
Contributor

FOR SOME PEOPLE, PREPARing their own CV is as simple as following the format of a software application. For others, writing their accomplishments turns out to be an arduous if not difficult task.

Present the truth in the best possible light. It is important to remember that the CV you present potential employers will serve as your initial meeting point with them. Creating a truthful and good impression is necessary. Honesty is important if you want people to trust and respect you in the long run. You may think that it is easy to hide a small and important detail in the resumé when in reality, your interviewer may decide to do some background check and verification at some later point. For example, I have seen certain applicants create the impression of having finished a Ph.D or MBA degree but they have yet to finish their thesis and graduate.

Be clear about details of your accomplishments. That way, the potential employer will also be in a better position to match you with a job that really suits your qualifications and interests. When employers use certain job criteria, there is usually a reason for it. If you pretend to be someone you are not, you will also most likely suffer the consequences of such deficiency.

Adjust the CV as needed. A lot of people think that a CV is a standard document that is neither revised nor altered. Actually, you can maximize the effect of your CV if you know how to tailor fit according to the job you are eyeing. If you are aiming for a teaching job, it may be better if you highlight your academic qualifications first before presenting your work experiences. Colleges are usually interested to find out if you have the necessary post graduate education. On the other hand, if you want a job that is related to what you are currently doing, then you would naturally reveal the work background first. Some people put their personal information last.

Be short and concise. Unless you have a long career history, it would be good if you can limit your CV to about two pages. Recruiters usually have very little time to scrutinize your CV. They may just spend one or two minutes reading the document before deciding whether they wish to meet you or not. Hence, what you put on the first page of your CV is critical. Some recruiters don't bother to check the next page unless you have caught their attention on the first one.

Know what you want. No matter how well you write your accomplishments, you will eventually get to meet the interviewer. If you are not clear about your career goals and plans, you may just end up with wasted opportunity. Think hard about what you want in your life and career. Time is short and your happiness is at stake.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Try being illogical

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

AT WORK, IT'S GOOD TO BE LOGICAL—BUT NOT ALWAYS. There are times when reason cannot stand to reason itself, as when the boss demands unquestioning obedience, or else...? When your superior insists on his solution to a problem when you are sure yours is better, obedience doesn't come easy, especially when you have a Ph. D and your boss has but an MA, or maybe when you're a man and your boss is a woman.

Jesus' command for Simon to lower their nets must have sounded illogical to him, for their whole night's effort at fishing had been futile, and yet Simon obeyed—he instinctively knew there was something superior to logic. Humanity's Newtons, Einsteins and Edisons recognize that fact, too. Examine breakthroughs in science, and you'll be reminded that great scientists would make their most earthshaking discoveries when farthest away from the laboratory, when their minds are emptied of mathematical formulas and calculations. Newton developed his law of gravitation from having seen an apple fall to the ground in his mother's farm. Einstein based his "thought experiments" not on laboratory work but on intuition and imagination. Edison holds a record-setting 1,093 patents for his inventions—and to think that he never had more than three months of formal schooling! Such men would be "illogical," opening themselves to a creative force that logic alone could never dispose them to.

Back to the workplace: Next time you are stifled by an inferior superior's irrational orders, or are crushed by circumstance (say, forced to resign or retire), find inspiration in those men of unconventional wisdom, and yield gracefully like Simon. Perhaps the Real Boss up there is preparing you for a grand harvest! *(E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)*

THINGS TO DO
FINISH PROJECTS
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FIX AIRCON

Gospel: Luke 5: 1-11

After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."

Obeying with faith

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

FOR SIMON PETER, AN EXPERT FISHERMAN, TO FOLLOW the fishing directions of Jesus, whose work expertise would probably be in carpentry, is something incomprehensible in the normal world of work. Nobody would dare give precise work instructions unless he is a master of such trade, or has the authoritative certification of his expertise on such job. There would also be no worker who would readily follow his supervisors or managers whose competence and/or job track record is far from excellent. But, what could be the possible reasons for some workers, who, like Simon, would obey instructions from their superiors who apparently are not expert, authoritative and masters of the trade?

One reason is fear—of losing the job, and therefore the means to earn a living for him and for the family. Blindly obeying the instructions of the superior would hopefully gain for him the pleasure of the latter and the stability of his job. Another cause for unquestioning compliance could be the minimalist attitude of the worker, who would not want to think and find out what could be the better way of doing things other than the seemingly incorrect work instructions. "Approving without thinking" would surely be the most convenient way to get rid of a lousy, monotonous task; it would also keep one from trouble arising from the possible displeasure of a spurned superior.

However, a few, might obey seemingly unreasonable orders due to a higher or deeper faith in a God, who is the Lord of everything including the world of work. When God is deeply felt by everyone (superior or ordinary worker) in the workplace, incomprehensible things could turn out to be meaningful and valuable for everyone. *(E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinet.net)*

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- ☐ Computer literate

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- ☐ At least 2 years experience in Finance or related field
- ☐ Knowledgeable in cash flow and receivables management, financial planning/analysis, budgeting and cash forecasting. Experience in audit, short terms investments, execution of fund transfer and other forms of payments
- ☐ Must posses good work ethic and excellent communication skill
- ☐ Willing to work long hours; trustworthy, honest, flexible, can easily adopt to a challenging work environment
- ☐ Computer literate

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- A Certified Public Accountant (CPA); male/female at least 30 years old
- Minimum three (3) years experience directly related to the position in a Manufacturing set-up
- Preferred skills: Computer literate in MS Office (Excel and Word) familiar with Accounting Software programs
- Applicant should be available ASAP!
- Since the company is located in Eastern Rizal, applicants from this area will be given preference.
- Due to urgency of the requirement interested applicants are encouraged to send their application letters and resumé by email to: **rose.lucero@greif.com** or **admin@greif.com.ph** or fax to 674-1456. You can also mail to:

GENERAL MANAGER
P.O. Box No. 13905
Ortigas Center Post Office
Ortigas Center 1605
Pasig City

Advertising ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- Smart, dynamic and result oriented FEMALE aged 21 to 30 with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Arts/Marketing/Advertising
- Excellent written and oral communication skills; with or w/o experience; fresh graduates are welcome to apply
- Apply in person from 10am to 4pm

COMPUTER GRAPHIC ARTIST

- M/F, 21-30 yo, Fine Arts/Advertising Grad
- w/ Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator, Macromedia Flash, 3D Animation skills
- Can work with minimum supervision
- Creative, innovative & a conceptual thinker
- Preferably with experience; apply in person from 10am to 4pm; bring your portfolio and credentials

email resumé at mertzjobs@yahoo.com.ph

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Holder of the world's highest creativity IQ, live in Manila!

BUZAN

TONY BUZAN, OWNer of the world's highest creativity IQ, will be coming here in Manila for a 2-day transformational workshop. Buzan will be working in cooperation with the Institute of Training and Development for its Mega Guru Event: "Unleash the Genius of Creativity and Innovation". Hailed as the world's top guru on mind power and creativity, Buzan is the originator of Mind Maps®. It is the thinking tool described as "The Swiss Army Knife of the Brain", now used by over 250 million people worldwide.

Known as the Mind Magician, Buzan firmly believes that it all begins with your brain, the core of your creative intelligence. He also stressed that enhancing your creative intelligence will certainly show you great improvement and rewards flowing into virtually all aspects of what you do professionally and personally. Even great artists and geniuses like Leonardo Da Vinci, Thomas Edison, Picasso, Mozart, Charles Darwin and William Shakespeare were among the users of creative intelligence techniques.

To date, Tony Buzan has written over 90 books and many best sellers including Mind Maps at Work: How to Be the Best at Your Job and Still Have Time to Play, The Power of Creative Intelligence, The Brainsmart Leader, Make the Most of Your Mind, Use Your Perfect Memory, Master Your Memory, The Speed Reading Book and many more. His works have been published in over 125 countries and translated into 32 languages with million copies sold and sales still growing at an astounding rate.

The ITD-Buzan Mega Guru Event will be held on March 26 and 27 at the Ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Manila. For more information and registration, call ITD Consulting at 887-7428, email itdmanila@itd.com.my or visit www.itd.com.my.

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- With excellent human relations skill
- Highly personable; with pleasing personality
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- Preferably with high scholastic standing and a student leader
- With excellent communications skills (oral and written)
- Knowledgeable in the use of Internet and MS Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Possesses a valid professional driver's license

PARTS ASSISTANT

- Bachelor's degree in Commerce, Computer Science or its equivalent.
- Preferably with at least 1-2 years of relevant work experience.
- Proficient in MS Office (MS Word & MS Excel)
- Possesses a valid non-professional driver's license

***Fresh Graduates are also encouraged to apply**
Send the ff: Resume; Transcript of Records; 2x2 picture to
The Human Resources Management Division
LausGroup Corporate Center
Carworld Bldg., San Fernando-Olongapo Highway, City of San Fernando, Pampanga
☎ 961.6680 09287742945 E-mail Address: **hrmd@lausgroup.com.ph**

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Marketing Licensee of The Walt Disney Company

is in need of

Retail Space Designer / Retail Coordinator

The successful hiree will be responsible for 1) planning, designing and managing Disney retail space, 2) planning, designing and executing sets for marketing events and 3) coordinating retail programs with business partners and retailers. These include designing and managing Disney branded retail areas and sets for marketing events, supervising construction and installation thereof, liaising with retailers for the approval of designs, installation and placement of merchandise and coordinating with retailers and business partners in the execution of retail programs.

Selection criteria for the post are as follows:

Male or Female, graduate of Interior Design, Fine Arts or any related field, not more than 35 years old with at least five years experience in preparing space designs and supervising the construction thereof. Creative, aggressive and outgoing. . Proficient in computer applications including Archi-CADD or similar programs, Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop. Willing to handle detailed coordinating jobs.

Please send resume with recent photo to Fun Characters, Inc, 5/F Tower One, Ayala Triangle, Ayala Avenue cor. Paseo de Roxas, Makati City, Telephone number, 8486563 or send e-mail to maureen.senining@fun-characters.com

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Policy in deployment relaxes

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) Governing Board has agreed to relax some of the provisions in the new government policy in the deployment of household service workers (HSWs) without compromising the objective of enhancing the welfare and protection being afforded to overseas workers.

"We have to act on this matter immediately so as not to prejudice our common objective of strengthening further our programs that would ensure the protection and welfare of our workers abroad," Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo Brion said.

The governing board, chaired by Brion, issued a resolution on recently, relaxing at least two of the provisions being opposed by a group of recruitment agencies.

Brion convened the Board to discuss the proposals submitted by the Federated Association of Manpower Exporters, Inc. (FAME) which has been asking for exemptions to some of the provisions in the new deployment policy.

"We have addressed the proposals to the extent that we could, while also making sure that the standards we wish to implement are maintained," the Labor Chief averred.

The resolution approved by the Board lowered the minimum age requirement from 25 to 23 years old.

Also with the latest resolution, only newly-hired HSWs are required to undergo TESDA's competency assessment and the language and culture training from OWWA. Special rules shall be issued on the implementation of the reform package to OFWs returning to overseas employment after completion of their contracts.

As to the salary, the Board exempts returning workers under existing contracts and those who have completed their contracts within 2006 and processed before March 1, 2007. The Board maintained the new rule on the US$400 to all returning HSWs who completed contracts before 2006 and returning under new contracts processed before March 1, 2007. The same rule applies to returning HSWs on a new contract and those newly-hired.

The no-placement fee policy which is also being opposed by recruitment agencies has been maintained.

"We understand that the no placement-fee policy affects the business of recruitment agencies. Placement fees can be collected from employers so why burden our workers?" Brion said. "*Marami sa mga kababayan natin ang nalulubog sa utang dahil sa placement fee, napapanahon naman siguro na alisin na natin sa kanila ang pabigat na ito.*"

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- Female, single, 25 - 33 years of age
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Send comprehensive resumé & photo to:
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Or Email to: rbrparadigm@yahoo.com

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FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

HINGE INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS, a dynamic company engaged in the publication of the most influential niche magazines today, is in immediate need of the following:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

The Account Executive will have a primary responsibility of acquiring advertising placements for assigned Hinge Inquirer Publication magazines.

- Generate new revenue through sales of advertising placements and event sponsorships according to set company quotas
    - Prospecting
    - Conduct of sales presentations
    - Development of proposals
    - Negotiation/Closing
- Account Management
- Participation in marketing initiatives/events

REQUIREMENTS:

- Male/Female, 21 to 30 years old
- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Studies/Advertising/Management, Sales & Marketing, or equivalent
- Highly motivated, a team player, with good communication, negotiation and presentation skills, thrives under pressure and can work with minimal supervision
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and do field work
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Corporate Sales/Advertising/Publication

SALES MANAGER

The Sales Manager will be directly responsible in monitoring and developing sales and business strategies. He/she is also responsible in managing account executives and in meeting sales team objectives.

- Develop effective advertising and events packages
- Present events concepts to key accounts
- Maintain good business relations with key accounts
- Monitor performance of Account Executives (AEs)
- Conduct coaching and facilitate training sessions with AEs
- Prospect new local and international business opportunities
- Ensure Sales Quota of the team is achieved

REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduate of Marketing, Advertising or any business course
- At least 3 years Management/Sales experience
- Articulate and possess exceptional presentation skills
- Computer literate
- Strong leadership and business sense to train and manage a sales team
- Creative in formulating sales strategies
- Aggressive in achieving sales targets
- Pleasing personality

CIRCULATION MANAGER

The Circulation Manager will be directly responsible for the distribution of magazines to outlets, retailers, distributors nationwide and ensures that delivery deadlines are strictly met within budget and quality standards.

The Circulation Manager will also facilitate and coordinate the effectivity of distribution and marketing efforts, and to help conceptualize promotions and gimmicks, to increase circulation and grow and properly position our outlets.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Graduate of Marketing, Management or any business related course
- Computer literate
- With good communication and leadership skills
- At least three (3) years experience especially in distribution/logistics industries

GRAPHIC ARTIST

The Graphic Artist will have the responsibility of conceptualizing designs for his/her respective magazine title/department. He/she will be working closely with the Editorial Staff and Creative Director.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Between 19-30 years old
- A graduate of a 4-year Communications course (or related degree), from UP, UST, Ateneo, La Salle or UA&P
- Equipped with exceptional designing skills
- Organized, resourceful, and creative
- Able to work under minimal supervision, and individually or with a group
- Willing to work overtime
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Magazine/Collaterals Design

hinge inquirer
PUBLICATIONS

Interested applicants may email their resumés to hrd@hip.ph, spanlilio@inquirer.com.ph or bring their resumé, two (2) 2x2 photos, Transcript of Records, and any valid I.D. to our office at Unit 330, Mile Long Building, Amorsolo corner Javier Streets, Makati City, from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. ● Tel. Nos.: 759-2284, 759-2024, 840-0196, 813-6848

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Some recruiters against POEA policies

POEA ADMINISTRATOR Rosalinda Dimapilis-Baldoz denounced some recruitment agencies who are pretending to be against the reform package for Filipino domestic helpers but are actually using the same policies to extract more money from the workers.

Baldoz said that in consultation meeting recently with some non-government organizations (NGOs) presided by Ms. Mina Gabor, the women sector representative to the POEA Governing Board, a NGO from Hong Kong admitted that some recruitment agencies are requiring returning workers from Hong Kong to undergo training and skills assessment although the new policies will apply to them only on March 1, 2007.

Daphne Ceniza of Filcomsin Hong Kong said the recruitment agency even required the workers to undergo assessment four times, paying P1,000 each time.

Skills training is not mandatory under the new regulation, Baldoz emphasized. What is required is skills assessment and for returning HSWs from Hong Kong and those with experience can go through portfolio assessment by merely submitting documents evidencing possession of the skills competencies equivalent to NC2. They do not even need to go through the actual trade test.

Baldoz vehemently denied that the package of reforms to improve the image and enhance the dignity and honor an respect for Filipino HSW is just another ploy by the government especially POEA to raise money as some groups are protesting.

THE WORLD BANK

Requires a

PROGRAM ASSISTANT – FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) has a vacancy for a Program Assistant to provide efficient and high quality accounting and administrative support to the Finance and Administration Team. This position will be for a three-year term basis, subject to one-year probationary period, with possibility of extension. The selected candidate will report to the Resource Management Officer.

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Procurement transaction processing and monitoring using Systems Applications and Products (SAP) such as creating purchase orders for goods and services, travel requests and travel expenses.
- Petty cash management and bills processing.
- Asset management - physical inventory of fixed assets and office supplies, implementation of asset assignment and disposal.
- Specialized support on a wide range of accounting, administrative, and secretarial services such as contracts management, charge-backs/issuance of statements of accounts, data collection and monitoring, package documents for audit submission, maintain and organize accounting files, assist team members during work overflow/overload.

Selection Criteria:

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting. CPA holder would be an advantage.
- Excellent organizational skills, ability to prioritize assignments and work effectively under pressure with minimum supervision.
- High degree of initiative, flexibility and resourcefulness with a drive for efficiency and results.
- Strong communication skills with ability to research and synthesize information.
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to liaise effectively and professionally with a wide range of clients (internal and external).
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft Office (Excel, Word, Powerpoint). Ability to use integrated enterprise-wide business transaction and information system (SAP) is preferred.
- Minimum five years of relevant work experience.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resumé with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than February 16, 2007. **Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview**. Send the above to:

The Human Resource Officer
Box 100 c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5/F Building B, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City

For **PETROLEUM EGYPTIAN PROJECTS CO. – YANBOU – SAUDI ARABIA**
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Qualifications: Male, not over 40 years old, at least 2 years experience
SAUDI ARAMCO Certified is an advantage

1. HSE Engineer
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3. Welders (SMAW, TIG, SSTIG, 3G/4G/6G, Pipe Welder or Tank Welder)
4. Unskilled Labour
5. Scaffold Erector

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7. Mechanical Const. Engineer (tank erection)
8. Mechanical Const. Engineer (equipment erection)
9. Construction Engineer (Civil)
10. Construction Engineer (E&I)
11. Technical Office Engineer (Civil)
12. Technical Office Engineer (Mechanical)
13. Technical Office Engineer (E&I)
14. Planning (Project Control) Engineer
15. DCC (Document Control)
16. Material Control
17. Electric Fitter
18. Material QC Engineer
19. Mechanical QC Engineer
20. Welding Foreman
21. Contract Administrator
22. Fitters Supervisor
23. Pipe Fitter
24. Steel Fitter
25. Tanks Welder
26. Steel Welder
27. Pipe Welder
28. Tungsten Arc Welder
29. Grinder
30. Rigger
31. Bus Driver
32. Electrical QC Engineer
33. Instrument QC Engineer
34. Project QA/QC Leader
35. NDT Inspector
36. Civil QC Engineer

Applicants may submit their latest detailed resumé, copies of passport, academic records, work & training certificates, 6 2x2 & 2 full body pictures in business attire & white background to:
Final Principal Interview to be scheduled 2nd or 3rd week of February 2007

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We are a multinational company engaged in distribution and marketing of consumer and household products, in urgent search of the following positions:

1. BRAND MANAGER (VACANCY CODE: HR01)

Qualifications:

a. Bachelor or Master's Degree in Marketing from any reputable university
b. 2-3 years experience in managing FMCG brand, planning, developing, and directing marketing efforts for a particular brand or product
c. Results oriented and creative; possess strong interpersonal, communication, and analytical skills; and have entrepreneurial leanings
d. Ability to measure the marketing effectiveness of each of marketing elements

2. ACCOUNTING MANAGER (VACANCY CODE: HR02)

Qualifications:

a. CPA is a must
b. At least 3-5 years solid experience preferably in FMCG or distribution company and background in accounting supervisory position involving general accounting, the preparation and presentation of financial statements.
c. Responsible for the preparation of the monthly financial statements and in ensuring compliance with the different requirements like BIR, SSS, HMDF, PhilHealth, DTI and local governments.
d. Highly computer literate and knowledgeable in accounting system and IT packages
e. Result-oriented, highly motivated and has a strong leadership
f. Ability to focus on controls, systems, accuracy and multi task
g. Ability to maintain effective internal control processes
h. Ability to work with a team as well as independently

3. KEY ACCOUNT SPECIALIST (VACANCY CODE: HR03)

Qualifications:

a. 2-3 years experience in managing chain supermarket with high analytical capability, fast learner and can work with minimum supervision
b. Ability to manage distributor's activity/operations, which include the following key results areas: management of accounts receivable, achievement of sales objectives, distribution objectives, depth and service levels, and inventory management.
c. Strong leadership and interpersonal skills
d. Good oral and written English communication
e. Minimum non-professional driver's license

4. IT OFFICER (VACANCY CODE: HR04)

Qualifications:

a. Degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or its equivalent
b. At least 2-3 years experience in IT, preferably in the development and/or programming capacity
c. With technical competencies in: MS Windows XP, Microsoft Server 2003, Microsoft Server 2003, Microsoft Office, Anti Virus Software and other general application software, mastering Visual Basic Programming, Crystal Reports, knowledge with SQL database environment such as SQL views, tables, database and data relationships/normalization, familiar with Solomon Accounting System and knowledge of LAN
d. Can work with minimum supervision, above average analytical capability, fast learner, team player, good communication and documentation skills and can work for long hours, if needed

5. MANAGEMENT TRAINEE (VACANCY CODE: HR05)

Qualifications:

a. Fresh Graduate from any reputable university
b. Work related experience is an advantage but not required
c. Analytical; needs to have a high feeling of responsibility, a logical way of thinking and a good organization
d. With strong leadership skills

Interested applicants should email their application letter indicating the vacancy code and resume at hrd_controller@yahoo.com.ph on or before February 16, 2007.

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TSR- Web Hosting

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- Demonstrated expertise with Microsoft Windows operating systems, including Windows files structures and navigation.
- Knowledge of web hosting, domain registration, cancellation and transfer tools and concepts.
- Knowledge of Browser technologies: Photo uploads, rendering, Active X, supported browser versions.
- Fundamental understanding of Internet and web design & hosting experience, including:
    - o Document Sharing and Posting
    - o E-mail (different e-mail clients and add-ons (like Outlook Connector) and protocols
    - o Web design applications like Front Page and Dreamweaver.
    - o Understanding of SSL and browser versions, features and settings
    - o Understanding of firewalls

TSR- ISP (Level 1)

- Demonstrates a strong customer service orientation, and takes responsibility to follow up with customers to ensure their needs and expectations are satisfied.
- Has a good working knowledge/skill area and is able to apply it with reasonable effectiveness in the position.
- Ability to learn quickly and adapt to a high change environment.
- Basic understanding of Microsoft Windows operating system
- User level Internet Explorer skills

TSR- ISP (Level 2)

- Demonstrates a strong customer service orientation, and takes responsibility to follow up with customers to ensure their needs and expectations are satisfied.
- Works effectively in situations involving uncertainty or lack of information, and responds flexibly to change.
- Intermediate Internet experience, including:
    - o MCP Level Networking (Solid understanding of TCP/IP, Windows Dial Up Networking (DUN) and Remote Access Services (RAS))
    - o E-mail (different e-mail clients and protocols)
    - o Understanding of SSL, Proxies and Internet Explorer settings
    - o Understanding of firewalls

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

- Ability to work in a flexible and challenging environment
- Must be energetic, articulate, committed and highly service oriented
- Demonstrated ability to grasp new concepts, understands new systems and quickly master key elements.
- Upbeat, positive, enthusiastic

TELEMARKETING AGENTS

- Strong verbal presentation skills, with pleasant, professional and articulate telephone representation.
- Creative problem-solving skills; ability to quickly assess customer issues.
- Great people skills, including empathy, courtesy and respect
- Driven and Motivated

DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE AGENTS

- Can type at least 25-30 wpm.
- Professional telephone manner and good oral communication skills
- Ability to problem solve and offer alternative solutions appropriately
- Must be a team player but able to work independently

COLLECTIONS AGENTS

- Apparent motivation, flexibility and dependability
- Ability to work in a flexible and challenging environment.
- Demonstrated attention to detail.
- High ethics, common sense and good overall judgment.

LEADERSHIP AND SUPPORT POSITIONS:

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WORKFORCE SECTION MANAGER
SERVICE DELIVERY MANAGER
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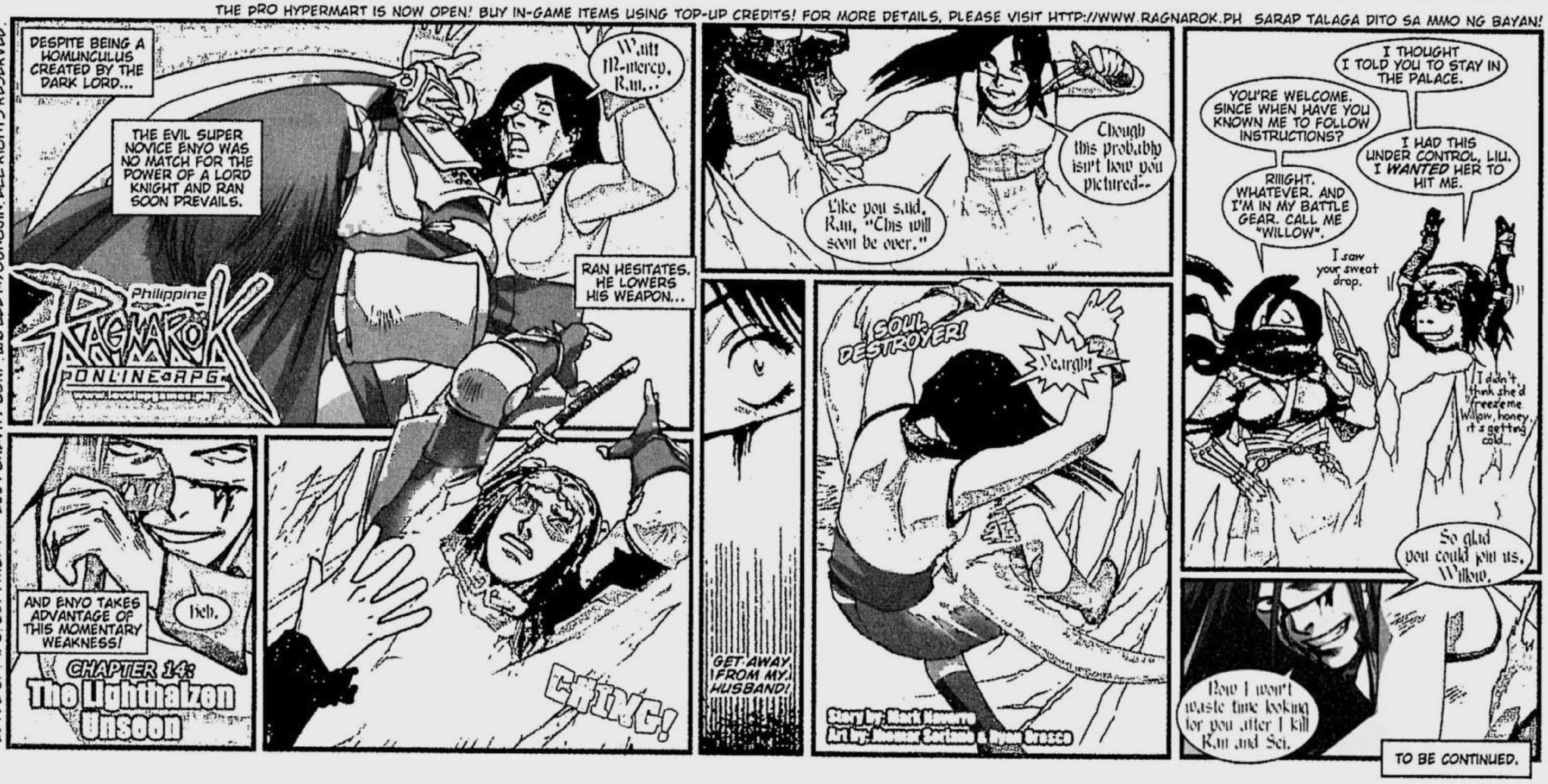
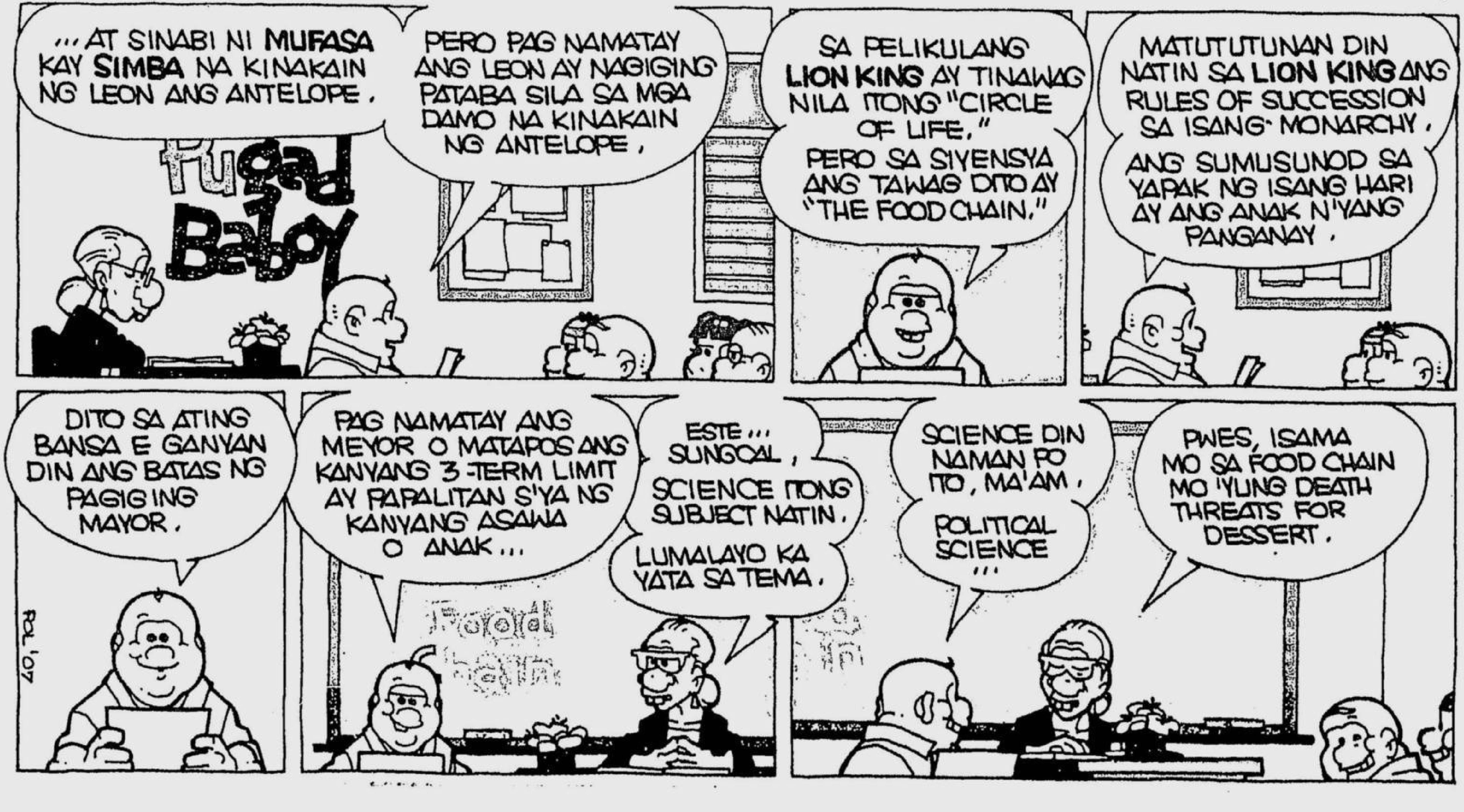

DESPITE BEING A HOMUNCULUS CREATED BY THE DARK LORD...
THE EVIL SUPER NOVICE ENYO WAS NO MATCH FOR THE POWER OF A LORD KNIGHT AND RAN SOON PREVAILS.
Wait! M-mercy, Ran...
Philippine Ragnarok ONLINE RPG
RAN HESITATES. HE LOWERS HIS WEAPON...
AND ENYO TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THIS MOMENTARY WEAKNESS!
Heh.
CHAPTER 14: The Lighthalzen Unseen
CHING!
Like you said, Ran, "This will soon be over."
Though this probably isn't how you pictured--
GET AWAY FROM MY HUSBAND!
SOUL DESTROYER!
Yeargh!
Story by: Mark Navarro
Art by: Jhomar Soriano & Ryan Orosco
I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU TO STAY IN THE PALACE.
YOU'RE WELCOME. SINCE WHEN HAVE YOU KNOWN ME TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS?
I HAD THIS UNDER CONTROL, LIU. I WANTED HER TO HIT ME.
RIIIGHT. WHATEVER. AND I'M IN MY BATTLE GEAR. CALL ME "WILLOW".
I saw your sweat drop.
I didn't think she'd freeze me. Willow, honey, it's getting cold...
So glad you could join us, Willow.
Now I won't waste time looking for you after I kill Ran and Sei.
TO BE CONTINUED.

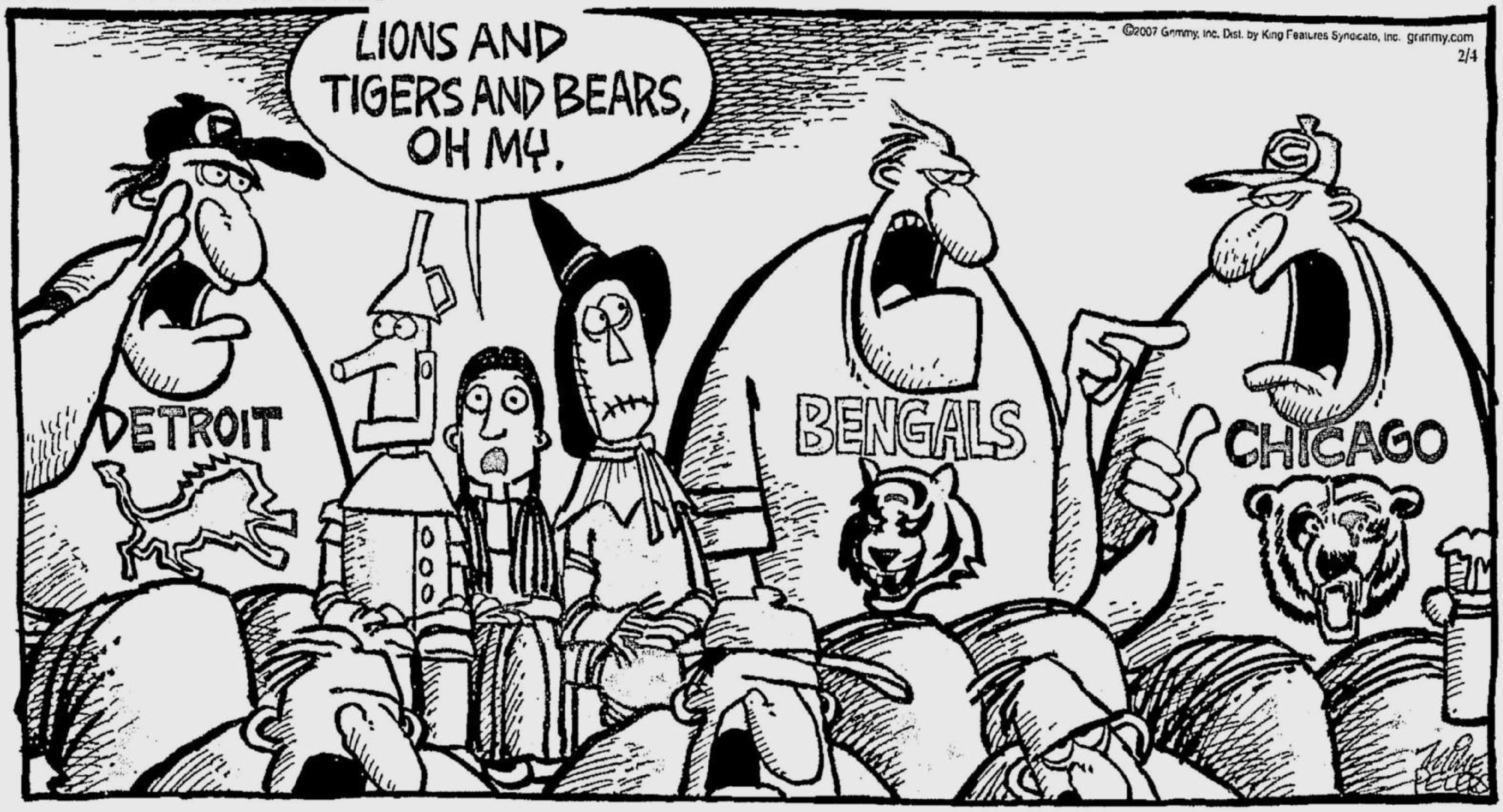
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


...AT SINABI NI MUFASA KAY SIMBA NA KINAKAIN NG LEON ANG ANTELOPE.
PERO PAG NAMATAY ANG LEON AY NAGIGING PATABA SILA SA MGA DAMO NA KINAKAIN NG ANTELOPE.
Pugad Baboy
SA PELIKULANG LION KING AY TINAWAG NILA ITONG "CIRCLE OF LIFE."
PERO SA SIYENSYA ANG TAWAG DITO AY "THE FOOD CHAIN."
MATUTUTUNAN DIN NATIN SA LION KING ANG RULES OF SUCCESSION SA ISANG MONARCHY.
ANG SUMUSUNOD SA YAPAK NG ISANG HARI AY ANG ANAK N'YANG PANGANAY.
DITO SA ATING BANSA E GANYAN DIN ANG BATAS NG PAGIGING MAYOR.
POL '07
PAG NAMATAY ANG MEYOR O MATAPOS ANG KANYANG 3-TERM LIMIT AY PAPALITAN S'YA NG KANYANG ASAWA O ANAK...
Food Chain
ESTE... SUNGCAL,
SCIENCE ITONG SUBJECT NATIN.
LUMALAYO KA YATA SA TEMA.
SCIENCE DIN NAMAN PO ITO, MA'AM,
POLITICAL SCIENCE...
PWES, ISAMA MO SA FOOD CHAIN MO 'YUNG DEATH THREATS FOR DESSERT.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS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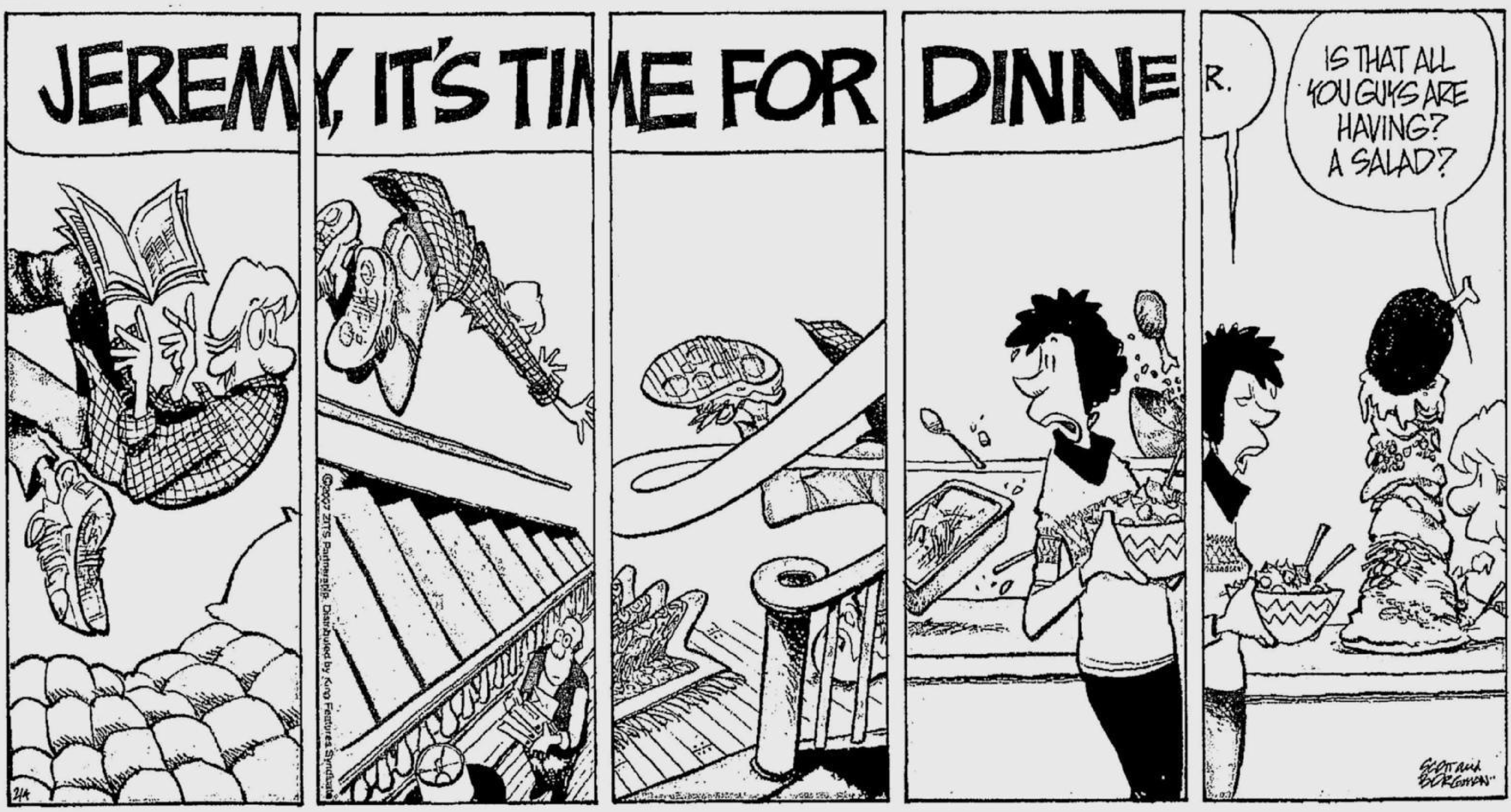
2/4
LIONS AND TIGERS AND BEARS, OH MY.
DETROIT
BENGALS
CHICAGO
Mike Peters

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


JEREMY, IT'S TIME FOR DINNER.
IS THAT ALL YOU GUYS ARE HAVING? A SALAD?
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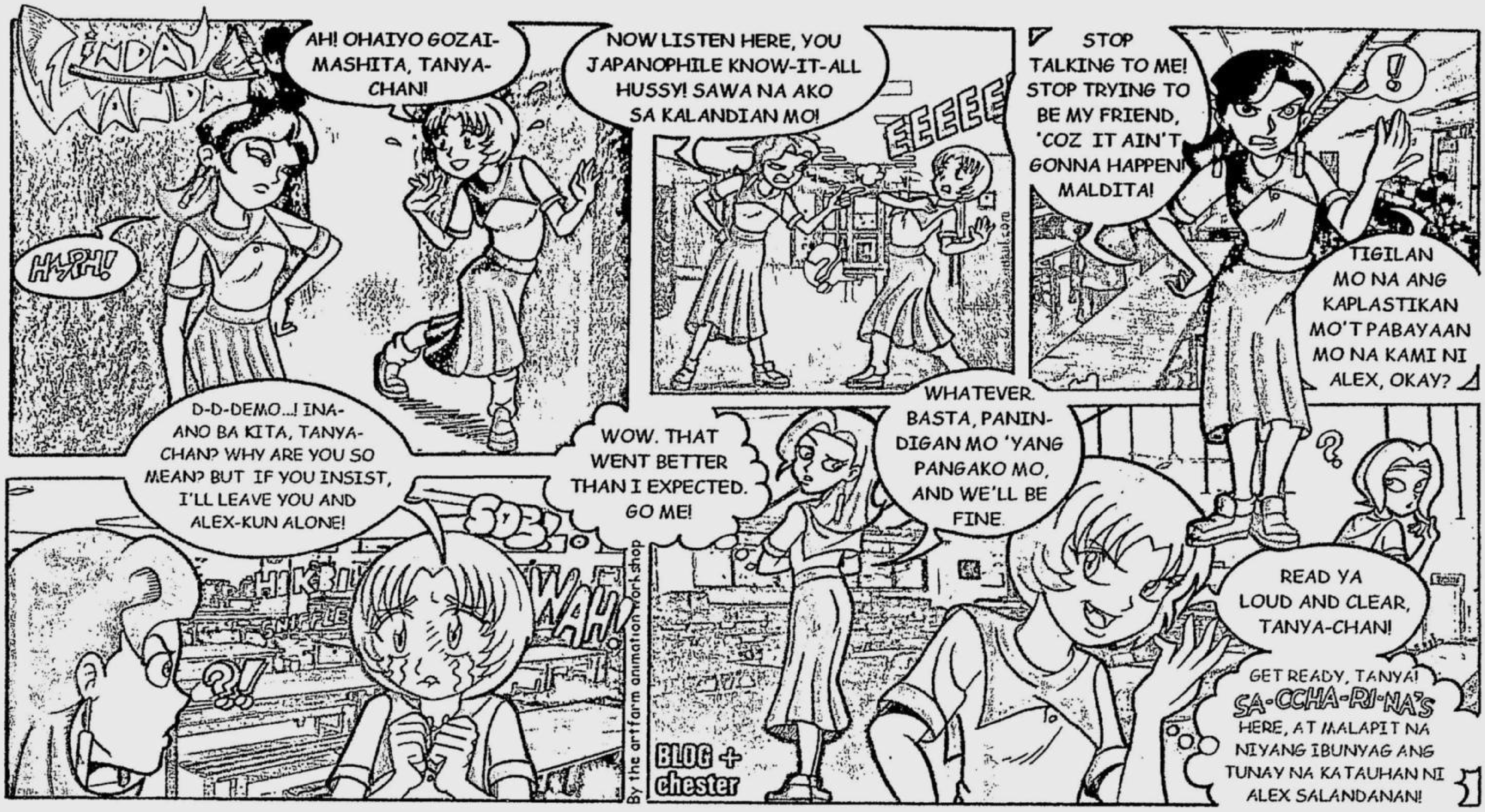
2/4
SCOTT AND BORGMAN

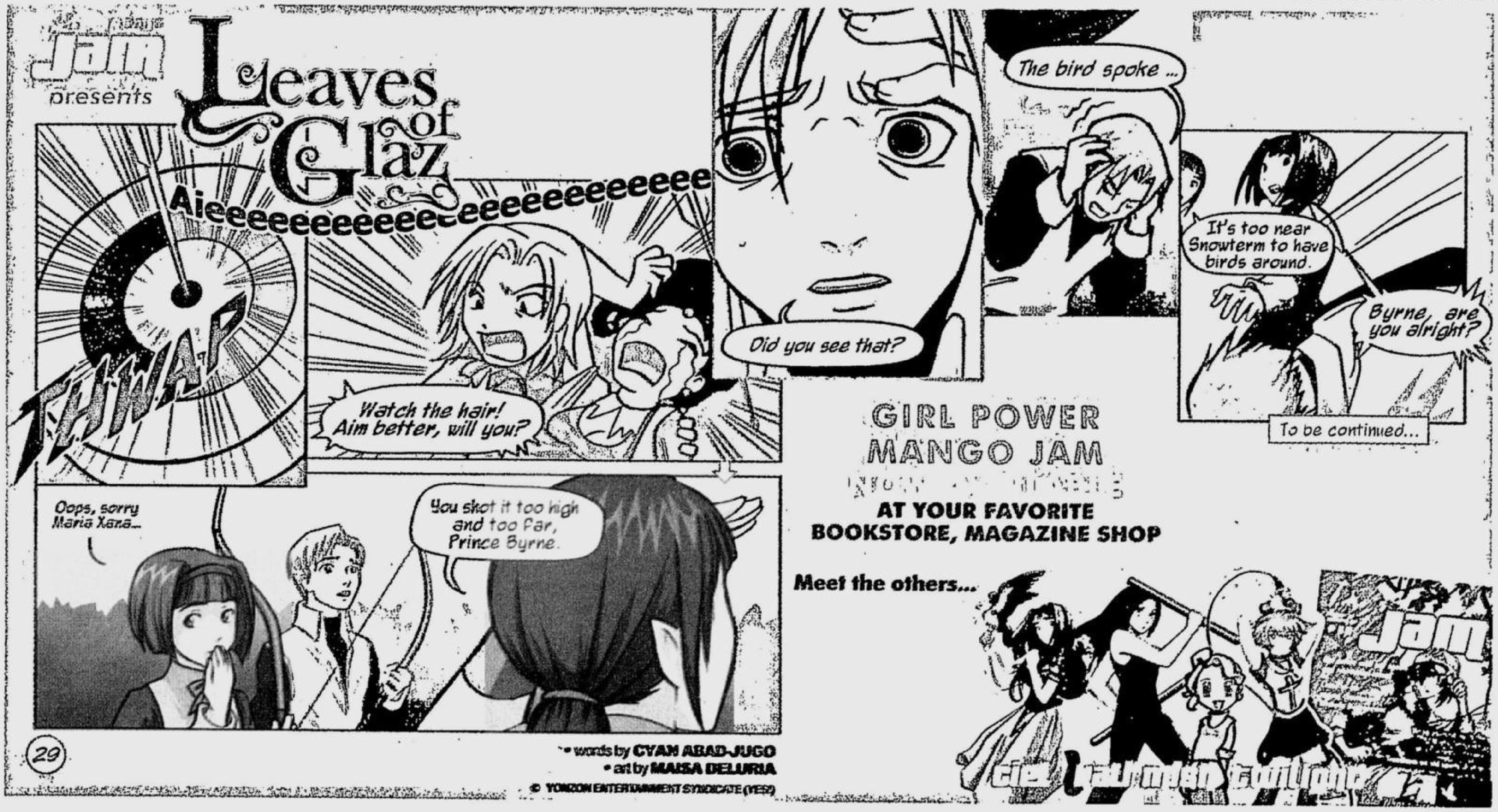
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


INDAY WANDA
HAPH!
AH! OHAIYO GOZAI-MASHITA, TANYA-CHAN!
NOW LISTEN HERE, YOU JAPANOPHILE KNOW-IT-ALL HUSSY! SAWA NA AKO SA KALANDIAN MO!
EEEEEE
STOP TALKING TO ME! STOP TRYING TO BE MY FRIEND, 'COZ IT AIN'T GONNA HAPPEN! MALDITA!
!
TIGILAN MO NA ANG KAPLASTIKAN MO'T PABAYAAN MO NA KAMI NI ALEX, OKAY?
D-D-DEMO...! INA-ANO BA KITA, TANYA-CHAN? WHY ARE YOU SO MEAN? BUT IF YOU INSIST, I'LL LEAVE YOU AND ALEX-KUN ALONE!
SOB
HIK
SNIFFLE
WAH!
?!
By the artfarm animation workshop
WOW. THAT WENT BETTER THAN I EXPECTED. GO ME!
WHATEVER. BASTA, PANIN-DIGAN MO 'YANG PANGAKO MO, AND WE'LL BE FINE.
?
READ YA LOUD AND CLEAR, TANYA-CHAN!
GET READY, TANYA! SA-CCHA-RI-NA'S HERE, AT MALAPIT NA NIYANG IBUNYAG ANG TUNAY NA KATAUHAN NI ALEX SALANDANAN!
BLOG + chester

LEAVES OF GLAZ

BY MANGO COMICS


Jam presents
Leaves of Glaz
Aieeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee
THWAP
Watch the hair! Aim better, will you?
Oops, sorry Maria Xana...
You shot it too high and too far, Prince Byrne.
Did you see that?
The bird spoke ...
It's too near Snowterm to have birds around.
Byrne, are you alright?
To be continued...
Meet the others...
Jam
29

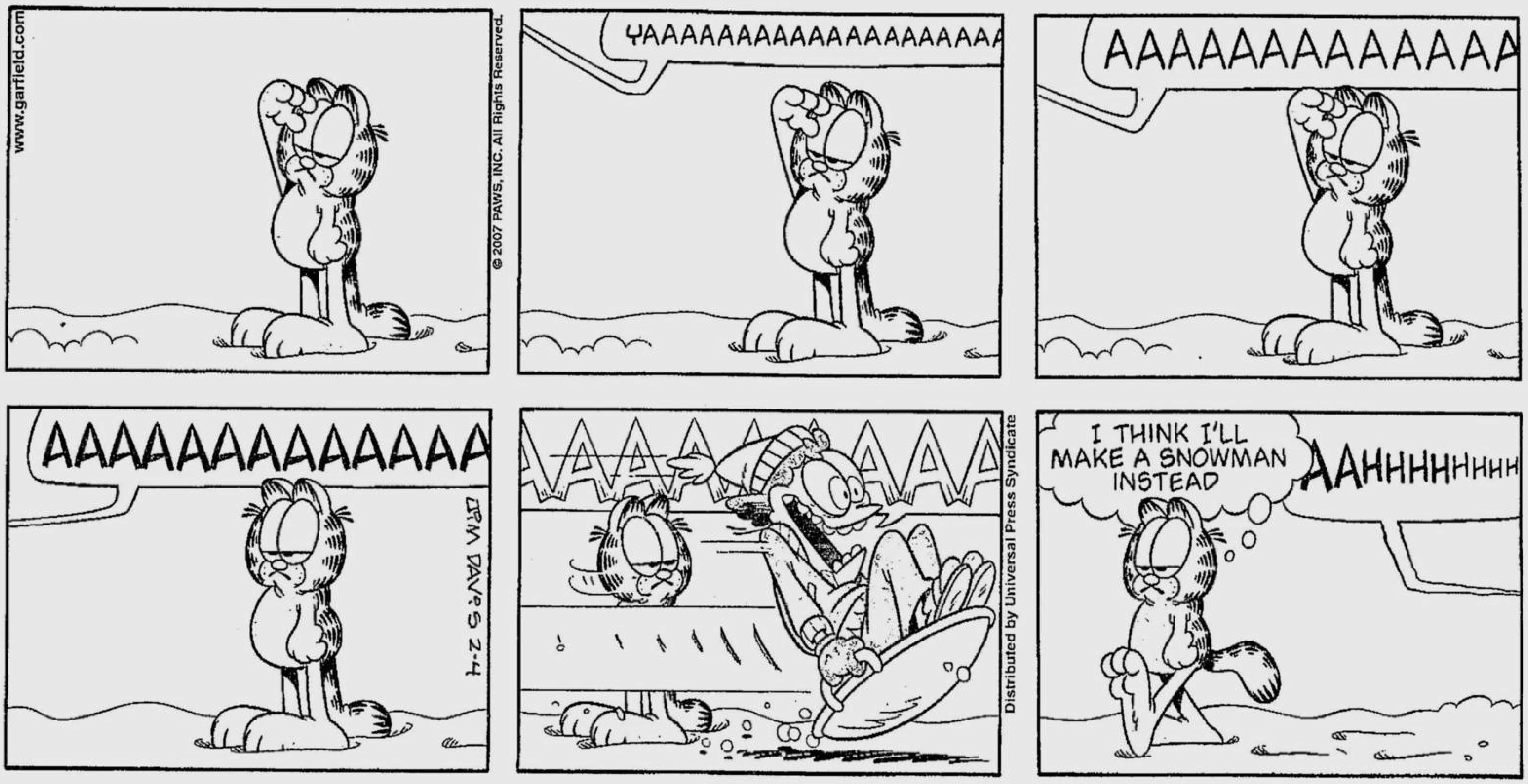
GIRL POWER
MANGO JAM
[illegible]
AT YOUR FAVORITE
BOOKSTORE, MAGAZINE SHOP

• words by CYAN ABAD-JUGO
• art by MAISA DELURIA

© YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES?)

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



www.garfield.com

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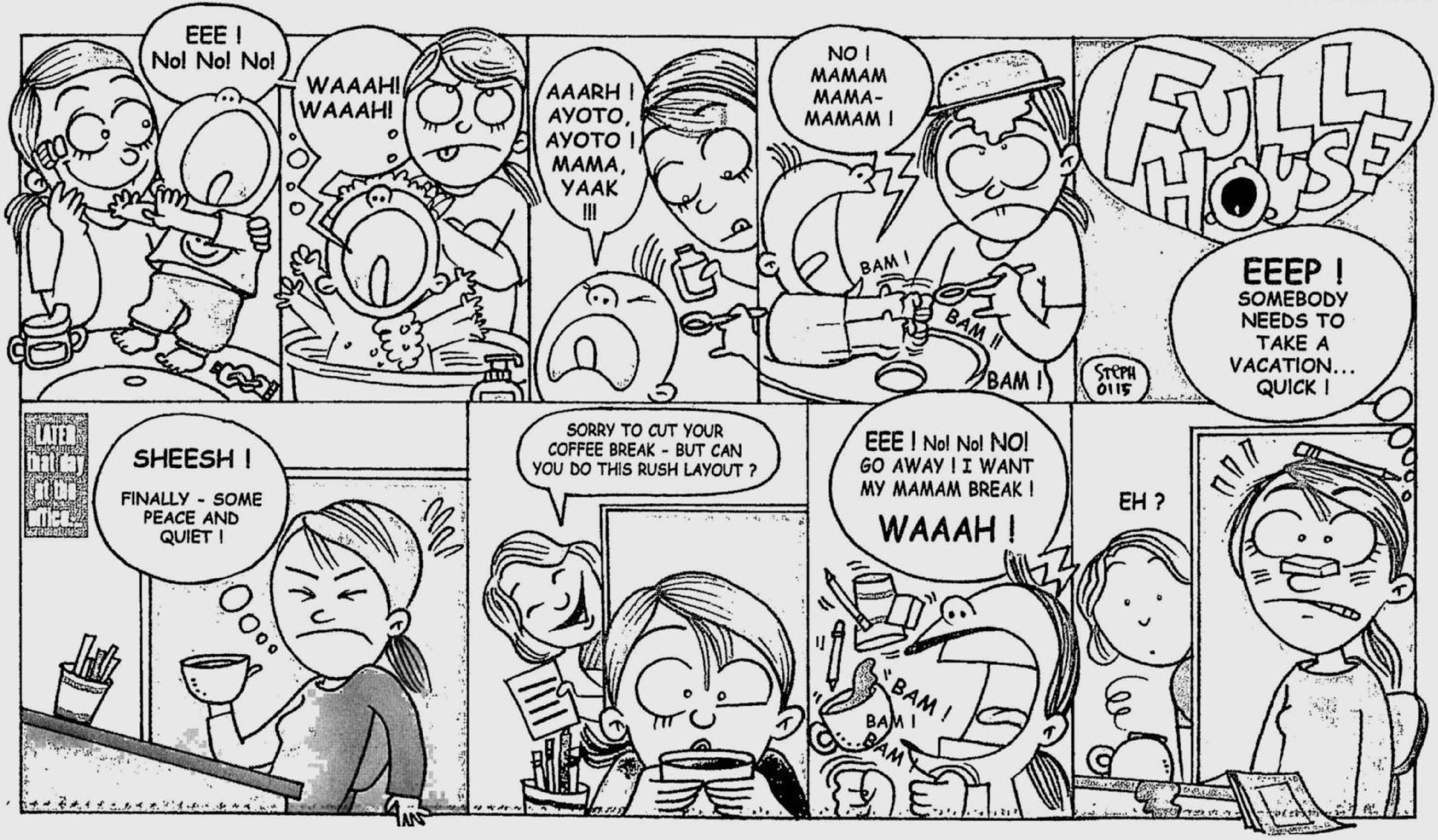
YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAAA
JPM DAVIS 2-4
AAAAAAAAAA
I THINK I'LL MAKE A SNOWMAN INSTEAD
AAHHHHHHHH

FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



EEE ! No! No! No!
WAAAH! WAAAH!
AAARH ! AYOTO, AYOTO ! MAMA, YAAK !!!
NO ! MAMAM MAMA-MAMAM !
BAM !
BAM !!
BAM !
FULL HOUSE
STEPH 0115
EEEP ! SOMEBODY NEEDS TO TAKE A VACATION... QUICK !
LATER that day at the office...
SHEESH ! FINALLY - SOME PEACE AND QUIET !
SORRY TO CUT YOUR COFFEE BREAK - BUT CAN YOU DO THIS RUSH LAYOUT ?
EEE ! No! No! NO! GO AWAY ! I WANT MY MAMAM BREAK ! WAAAH !
BAM !
BAM !
BAM !
EH ?

*sunday*INQUIRER*magazine*

February 4, 2007

FREE

Finding Grace in Grief

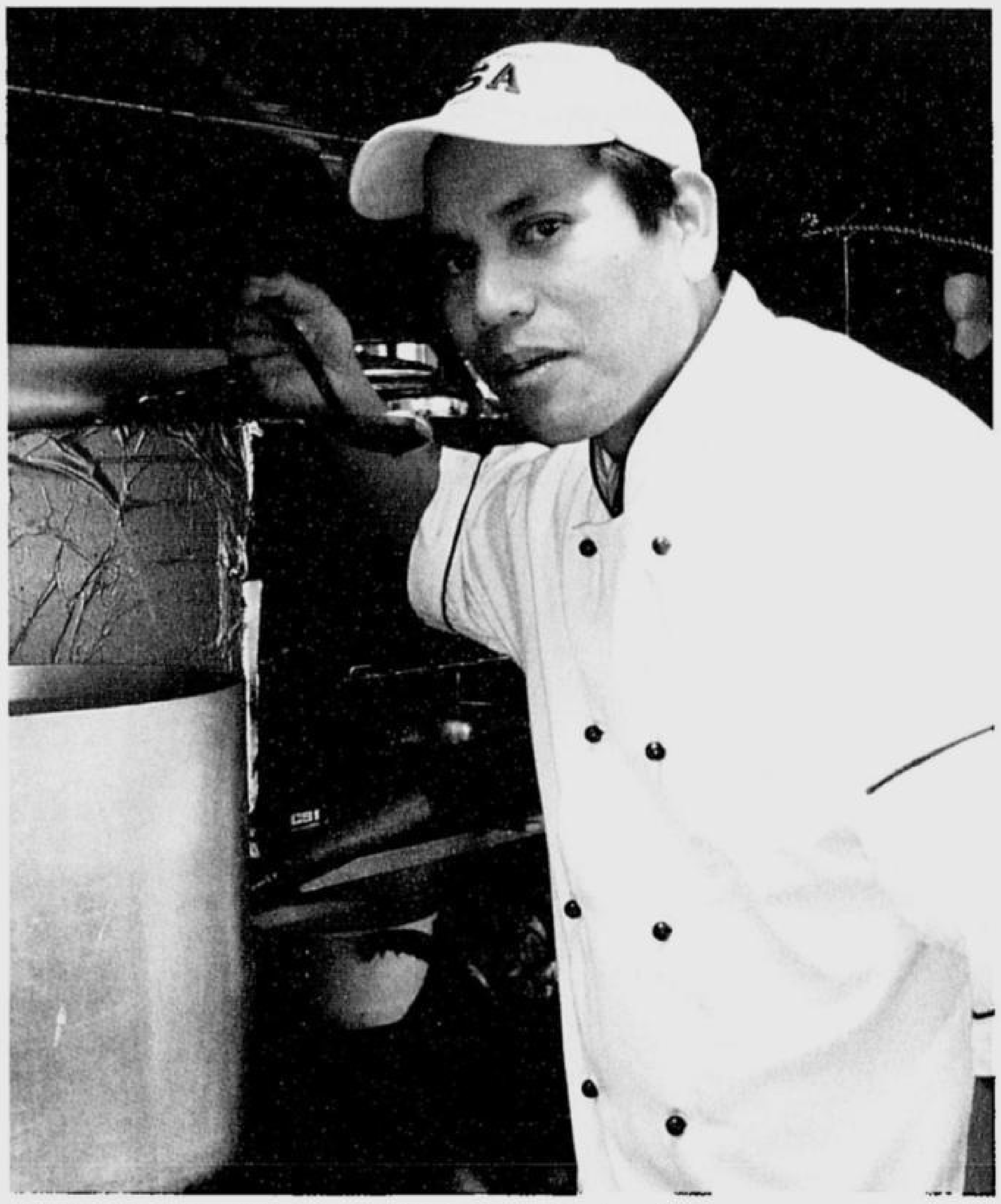
Actress, environmentalist and artist Chin-chin Gutierrez has found new life after her near-death experience.

plus: How 3 Pinays dared to conquer Everest ◆ A Pinoy chef gets cooking in NZ ◆ 3 ways to make it in China as a media exec Celebrating nabe and more!

Text and photographs by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

Turning up the heat in nippy Taupo

Something's cooking in this small town in New Zealand and true enough, there's a Pinoy behind all that smoke


Silerio: A taste of the good life in New Zealand

LIFE has been good to Edwin Silerio, chef and owner of Hot Plate restaurant that on this cold spring evening is packed with busloads of Japanese and Korean tourists. It takes 20 minutes to get two seats, and only because Marie, Hot Plate manager and Edwin's wife, was quick to recognize her *kababayan*. After all, how many brown-skinned, flat-nosed Pinoys turn up in Taupo, New Zealand, 287 kilometers south east of Auckland? This small town is known mainly for its hot springs, active volcanic craters and trout fishing at Lake Taupo—which constantly blows in teeth-chattering weather, the only downside to living in this paradise, says Silerio. "*Lahat kami nagkakasakit* (We all get chills)," he complains.

Otherwise, the same nippy weather brings in good business, as Kiwis—NZ-born Britons—love to dine on hot plates and to gnaw on Korean beef and sushi. Silerio, a former chef at Saisaki, became chef for a Korean boss in Papua New Guinea in 1992. He stayed on for five years, stirring the pot and training the restaurant's staff.

In 1997, the boss moved on to New Zealand and Silerio joined him, family in tow. "It's a wonderful, friendly place," he says of this city of about 20,000 people. His children, aged 14, 11 and 1 ½ love it there, he adds. "Education's good and the air is pure and fresh." The people are warm and friendly too, he adds.

He used to get really lonely, says this former box maker who, in his past life, painted electric fans and worked as a shoe clerk at an SM mall where he met wife Marie. "I used to be the only male in the group of expat Filipinos here. The rest were Pinays married to Kiwis. I had very little in common with those women, and there was not much we could talk about." That was 10 years ago. There are now 20 Filipinos in Taupo, six of them couples and most of them from Meralco and PLDT. "Electricians and nurses are in demand here," says the 37-year-old chef.

In May last year, Silerio took over as chef and proprietor of the restaurant and promptly took in another Pinoy as his assistant. Mario Suarez, 41, was a cook for a private catering business owned by his Korean-Japanese boss when he came to New Zealand as a tourist. He came back home, but only to get his family—wife Vanessa, who now works in the post office, and their 5-year-old daughter.

With wife Marie

Suarez agrees that life in this sheep-grazing land has been idyllic. His only problem, he says, is deciphering the Kiwis' British-accented English. Otherwise, he says, he's content and plans to apply for citizenship in a few years' time.

Silerio's not so sure about that. He plans to save up and settle back in the country, he says. "*Sarap ng buhay sa atin* (life's good back home). It makes a world of difference to be among relatives and friends, miss *ko sila lahat*, (I miss them a lot)," says this Bicol native who used to live in Marikina. "Here, life's peaceful but quite predictable. *Trabaho-bahay lang, ni walang* nightlife (Our routine's confined to going to work and going home; there's no nightlife)." Sure he can have a drinking session with the guys, "but it's not worth having your license suspended for six months for DUI (drinking under the influence.)"

In the meantime, business is literally sizzling and if this goes on, Silerio says he plans to introduce Filipino food soon. "The Kiwis love *lechon*," he says. And that would definitely be a welcome change from the town's customary trout dish.•

By Paolo P. Mangahas

Between poverty and paradise

As I got ready to introduce my country to my German friend, I realized I did not know where to begin. After all, how does one explain poverty to someone who has never experienced it before?

Palawan: One of the must-see places in the country

LAST night, I had dinner with a German friend to talk about her planned trip to the Philippines. She had just completed an internship program in one of the law firms here in Malaysia and wanted to take a short holiday in a nearby country before heading off to Australia to finish her studies. She wanted to know more about the Philippines and asked me for tips on making the most of the two-and-a-half weeks that she had allotted for this vacation.

We planned her trip between bites, armed only with a faded map of the Philippines that we had downloaded from the Internet. My goal was to identify all the "must-see" places in the country (her criteria being beaches and volcanoes), plot them according to distance and flight routes, and then cram them all in 17 days. A tall order indeed, especially for someone like me who has never had a sense of direction even in my own neighborhood. For the life of me, I could not spot where Boracay was on her map. So I took the easy way out and told her to go to Palawan instead.

I carried on with the task like a diligent student trying to remember my geography, starting from the rice terraces in Banaue up north, moving down south to the Mayon Volcano in Bicol and the Chocolate Hills in Bohol. It was an embarrassing ordeal nonetheless as she could see that I was struggling to find all the other attractive destinations on the map, which in turn made me realize how little I truly knew about my own country.

She was very excited about the trip and was eager to learn more about the country and its people. She imagined the Philippines to be an eternal fiesta of Spanish and Chinese Third-World flair, filled with warm and accommodating people who all speak with a clear American accent, where all men have the handsome earthy appeal of Jericho Rosales and women the heavenly *mestiza* charms of Kristine Hermosa (thanks to Filipino soap operas that have become so popular here in Malaysia).

It was certainly one of the most honest cultural impressions that I have ever heard and quite amusingly, one shared by many. In my German friend's opinion, the Philippines is one of the most open-minded countries in Southeast Asia. I found this view rather interesting, especially since it came from a European who has never stepped foot in the Philippines and whose only direct exposure to the country, was me.

The funny thing about cultural impressions is that they often come from a place of both acute perception and blatant ignorance, split in the middle by what is painfully true. But they are what they are—impressions.

Quite naturally, my friend and I have come to build our own impressions about Malaysia in the several months that we have been here. Malaysia is a beautiful country that seems to be in a hurry to develop economically, but is hampered by a palpable trace of social reluctance. It seems grounded on an age-old culture that simply does not mix well with progress, or at least the kind dictated and exemplified by the Western world. I find this true for most developing Asian countries, including the Philippines.

My friend pointed out that she has never seen a beggar in the streets of Kuala Lumpur since she moved here and asked me if it is the same in the Philippines. As a matter of fact, she admitted that she has never seen a beggar up close in her whole life and asked me to explain how it is to live in a poor country like mine. She wanted to know more about poverty.

Her question struck a chord in me because I realized that apart from Jericho Rosales, this woman had

(continued on page 5)

Text and photographs by Margaux Salcedo

A Japanese hangout away from home

Unlike other well-known Japanese restaurants that have become Filipino favorites, Akitaya caters specifically to a Japanese clientele. And thanks to word of mouth, it has been around the past seven years

Princess Akitaya Roll: Complete and filling

IZA what? *Izakaya*!

I am a big fan of Japanese cuisine but not of the whopping prices that come with it. And since I am not sold on Japanese fast food, I am always on the lookout for a decent alternative. On my way to F&B World's office in Mile Long the other day, I passed a curious facade of what was clearly a Japanese restaurant. Quiet and obscure, I initially wondered if the place was an undercover sleaze-bar because its closed doors are situated opposite a bar. But I boldly took a peek anyway and was pleased to find out that it is, in fact, a very decent, clean and quite tasteful Japanese restaurant!

The name of this quaint Japanese resto is Akitaya, after the hometown of its chef and owner, Yuri Kawamura. Chef Kawamura, I learned from his wife Shirley, who co-owns and manages the restaurant, used to be with Sugi and Kimpura. But unlike these two well-known restaurants, which have become Filipino favorites (who doesn't love Sugi?), Akitaya's menu caters specifically to a Japanese clientele, offering items which are unfamiliar to most foreigners and possibly not suited to their tastes.

The restaurant, in fact, is an *izakaya*, a type of drinking establishment where drinks are the main offering. The food, known as *sakana*, is served to compliment the drinks, but unlike a simple bar, more substantial recipes are offered. So when you enter Akitaya, you are greeted at the table by a bottle of sake, which is usually consumed with either nabe or udon.

Nabe is the house specialty. These are hot pot dishes, the ones most common to us being sukiyaki and shabu-shabu. But Akitaya offers a whole array of nabe specialties. These include the Yose Nabe (the restaurant's menu separates the words, although this is more commonly spelled as one word), one of the most popular nabe in Japan, and the Chanko Nabe, which is supposedly a nabe that was originally served only to Sumo wrestlers to help them gain weight. Akitaya is most proud of its Kiritanpo Nabe, a specialty of the Akita Prefecture in Japan, which contains rice, chicken, Japanese parsley, and thin konnyaku. I searched Kiritanpo Nabe on the Net and this testimonial by a Japanese blogger made me appreciate the culture behind the dish. (Edited for easier reading, because I'm assuming this is a web translation; his/her site was mostly in Japanese characters!):

"Many Japanese like eating Nabe especially in winter time. We can get warm when we eat it. There are many kinds of Nabe such as Yosenabe, Kimuchinabe, Chankonabe and so on. I ate Kiritanponabe last month. Kiritanpo is made of rice and it's a very famous and traditional food in Akita prefecture. Kiritanpo is derived from the word "*Tanpoyari*" in former times. *Tanpoyari* is the name of a spear and the shape of it looks like Kiritanpo. To make Kiritanpo, we mash rice until it begins to thicken. Then, we make rice sticks by using chopsticks like popsicle. After grilling them, we let them cool a bit and then take out the sticks. The soup is made of chicken and other ingredients like burdock, leek, shirataki, maitake, and whatever else you might like. I want to eat many kinds of Nabe this winter. (*http://solanon.no-blog.jp/fluffy/2006/11/nabe.html*)

The restaurant claims to be the only Japanese restaurant in the Philippines to offer Kiritanponabe. Truth be told, the pots are pricey, ranging from P850 for the Kimuchi Nabe to P1,250 for the Chiri Nabe. But considering that the ingredients are flown in from Japan, it should at least be worth a try.

On a more affordable scale, there is the rest of the menu. For starters, I highly recommend the Maguro Tataki, P290, a simple dish of seared tuna presented with slices of lemon. I also recommend the Atsuyaki Tofu, which is a more filling alternative to the healthy but sometimes uber plain agedashi tofu. Served on a sizzling plate and showered with chopped mushrooms and onions, it is slightly spicy and very flavorful. Warning to vegetarians, though: it has bits of ground beef as well, so you might have to stick to agedashi.

Other starters include maki, which range from P95 to P280. The Princess Akitaya Roll, the most expensive item on the maki menu, is an original maki of Chef Kawamura, containing shrimp tempura, unagi or sea eel, cucumber and lettuce. It is a complete and filling roll, with a touch of sesame seeds in addition to the more common fish eggs decorating the rice. An order contains six large and densely packed pieces and may definitely be shared.

For the main course, if you decide to skip the nabe, you may opt for either udon (thick Japanese noodles) or soba (thin). However, if you are hungry and want rice, try their gyudon. Chef Kawamura does it the authentic Japanese way, garnishing the beef with beni shoga. Beni shoga is ginger cut into thin strips, colored red, and then pickled using a solution called Umezu.

The restaurant is an *izakaya*, a type of drinking establishment.

By this time, you will be so full because the servings are relatively huge. There will be no room for dessert, a dilemma addressed by the owners with practicality: they dispensed with a dessert menu altogether. Instead, they give a piece of fruit at the end of the meal for free.

A bonus to the well-executed menu is the offering of Iichiko, which I learned from a friend is not sake but shochu, another Japanese indigenous alcoholic drink that is distilled instead of brewed and whose alcohol level ranges between 25-45 percent!

But Iichiko aside, the most commendable quality of this izakaya is the fact that Chef Kawamura does not compromise the flavors of his province to cater to (what to him is) a foreign crowd. At this restaurant, there are no illusions about taking a trip to Japan—no servers in kimonos, not even wasabi with the soy sauce. The focus of the place, aside from the sake, is the quality and authenticity of each dish; and the fact that the place is full on a Tuesday evening with an all-Japanese crowd is clear evidence that Chef Kawamura achieves his purpose.

I was surprised to learn that the restaurant has in fact been around for almost seven years. But a look around the restaurant shows how it has achieved longevity in spite of its lack of publicity: word of mouth has made this izakaya a Japanese immigrant's hangout away from home. Simple, no-fuss, clean, reasonably priced with unique and specialized dishes, Akitaya was a really pleasant find. •

Attire: casual. Alcohol: Iichiko, P1,350/bottle; unfortunately, no Japanese beer. Wheelchair access: restaurant is on the ground floor with access from the driveway. Visa, Mastercard and Diners Club accepted. Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 11 p.m on weekdays; 6 to 11 p.m. on Sundays. No reservations required but call 813-7475 if you're the type. Location: Ground Flr., Mile Long Bldg., Amorsolo St., Legaspi Village, Makati.

Between poverty and paradise (from page 3)

Poverty: "An open wound waiting to be healed."

absolutely no idea about the country where she was going and how it was out there. Here was someone who came to me wanting to know more about my country and the best I could offer was a geographical representation of scenic destinations, which I hardly even knew myself.

By this time, I had put down the pen I was holding, set aside the map, and got ready to explain to her details about my country. I did not know where to begin. After all, how does one explain poverty to someone who has never experienced it before?

To make things more relevant to her, I started by comparing the Philippines to Malaysia. I told her that blue-collar workers in the Philippines did not have the same opportunities as the ones in Malaysia, who can afford to eat in the same restaurants where executives eat or even shop in stores where their own bosses shop. I told her that unlike the ones I have met in Malaysia, secretaries and administrative clerks in the Philippines will eat in posh restaurants only on very special occasions and can barely afford to travel to other countries.

I then told her about the beggars, young and old, who parade the streets of Manila, the children who knock on car windows selling sampaguita, the mothers who have to forage for food in garbage landfills, and the unemployed fathers who waste their lives on drugs and alcohol. I told her about the shanties that bedeck highways and railroads, the unproductive traffic jams, the garbage-infested streets and sewers, and the regular typhoons that flood the country and exacerbate already poor living conditions.

I told her that poverty in the Philippines unapologetically hits you in the face the very moment you step in. It is an open wound just waiting to be healed.

My friend looked shaken, as if experiencing for the first time a world

(continued on page 15)

By Cora Llamas
Photographs by August de la Cruz

A giant market learns a new language

He couldn't speak a word in Chinese when he took on the job 10 years ago. But media executive Alfonso de Dios later discovers that marketing is a universal language that can open doors and create opportunities

THE YOUNG media executive looked around him and thought, "Did I do the right thing?"

The billboards and signs in the train station were all in Chinese and nobody seems to know any English. The taxi drivers, passersby and the other passengers spoke only Chinese. Alfonso "Pons" de Dios realized that he had to rely on his gut feel and resourcefulness to find his new office in the bustling province of Guangdong. It didn't seem such a promising start for the new Procter and Gamble associate director for media for Greater China.

That was five years ago. Today, De Dios would not think of working anywhere else. After breezing through his initial three-year contract, his current contract is an open-ended one.

De Dios heads the media management arm of China's largest advertiser in a province teeming with about 80 million people. To say that the job is challenging is definitely an understatement. While China is fast becoming an economic giant in the region, De Dios' fields of expertise like media management, marketing, and advertising are just being discovered.

But that hasn't stopped the man from doing well. In fact, the prestigious international trade publication, Advertising Age, recently included him in their annual list of top media mavens. Of the 16 standouts cited for breaking new ground, shaking the status quo, and trying nascent media forms while enhancing the bottom line, De Dios is the only Filipino.

De Dios: Breaking new ground

Life in China, he says, is 24/7. "It is a big market. It has about 10,000 [publication] titles, 300 TV stations, 2,000 shampoo brands and millions of consumers. But marketing is still a new game. This is our next frontier. We need to develop the softer side and the service industry."

It is certainly a long way from the Ateneo graduate who initially struggled with his job as a fledgling media buyer in J. Walter Thompson. All his peers wanted to dive into account management. De Dios soon learned that the new position, which his colleagues dismissed as a mere clerical post, was actually an entry point into the corridors of power. Creating a media plan meant studying which shows were rating, having a grasp of market preferences, analyzing which new programs or magazines would likely succeed—and making the necessary recommendations for clients to invest advertising money into the most feasible media forms.

De Dios remembers his experience, "Little by little, I saw that I could make a difference. I was given my own set of accounts and would recommend a plan to my client. I loved watching TV, back then and now. I'd ask [the network] for the format, the fit, where this slot is gonna go, and so on. For a new program, you'll ask, who are the stars? Where is the storyline going?"

It was only a matter of time before he was promoted as Media Group Head. One reason, he says, is that nobody among his creative peers wanted to be in management.

A few more years down the line and De Dios became P&G Manila's Media Manager, a complete turnaround, he was to find out. As opposed to handling clients, he became the client. "I was calling the shots. Advertisers hire media agencies to plan and buy for them. We now manage the resources including the agencies although they are not part of the company." It was under his watch that the "Marimar," Thalia, and "Go Bingo" phenomena exploded and captured the imagination of the showbiz-loving populace.

When P&G Manila was scouting around for the new media executive position in Greater China, De Dios' colleagues expressed no interest because of the "complexity and scale" of the market. But he was undaunted. "How can you turn down a position that the company describes as a real challenge and opportunity?"

Coping with linguistic differences was one of the hurdles he had to overcome, though not for long. These days, he grins, the Chinese can speak some English and he doesn't have to learn Mandarin. An assistant-cum-translator and trips to surrounding cities and the countryside have helped as well, as De Dios observes the habits of China's immense population: the music they listen to, what they want to read in newspapers and magazines, the video clips they download.

"We've been able to shape the industry," he says with pride. According to the Advertising Age, P&G's annual media budget is $400M, its extensive network reaching consumers in 2,000 Chinese cities.

But keeping abreast of the times is crucial, De Dios adds. "Once you think you've licked the system, something happens," he muses.

Ten years ago, while pursuing a Masters of Science degree in integrated marketing communications at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, De Dios had a preview of how new technologies like the Internet could have an impact on advertising and promotions. Today, he and his colleagues are mandated to keep up with, if not overtake and direct, the new media.
"Something like YouTube is in vogue now," he says of one campaign where a video with all the necessary software for recreation and retooling can be uploaded for free on one website. "A toothpaste commercial can have a video with this favorite singer and you can sing anything you want. During its two-week run, close to a thousand videos were uploaded, and there were one million page views for that site."

The Internet has also been used as a gauge of success, he adds. "Most singers in China before releasing their CDs will release it on the Net. Established singers get a sense of the commercial success of that particular record by the number of download and hits they get. So even new singers can become mainstream artists once they have a hit on the Net."

Other promotions feature tie-ups with a mobile phone company for ring tones, adds De Dios. "Some singers go to a very remote province because it has the most number of downloaded ring tones."

Cutting-edge knowledge and technological savvy, though, aren't enough to succeed among a people who are known for their clannishness and insularism. De Dios says that the good old Pinoy practice of *pakikisama* (PR or good relations) can go a long way." Doing business in China is relationship-based. They will test you to see how sincere you are. Negotiations can take place in a big banquet with strict protocol, or it can be a *carinderia*-style gathering. "

Some of his Western colleagues who are more used to straightforward business dealings have a hard time adjusting to the Chinese ways. "First World [people] who are used to a brisk businesslike approach can find so many things odd in China. You can't succeed that way," he cautions.

"The Chinese feel more affinity with Filipinos."

It may be difficult to earn the respect of the Chinese at first, but once it's given, their trust is rock-solid. "They believe in giving you good face," De Dios says. "They want to please people; they don't want to lose face, and they don't want YOU to lose face. This is true among Asians in general but more so for them. But if they see you working hard, they give you respect and then they reciprocate."

De Dios has certainly earned that respect. In 2004, he was the only foreigner in a listing of the top 10 media professionals in the country. Advertising professionals also look up to him as some kind of guru; they google his speeches and download these for their study.

De Dios observes that there are about 10,000 Filipinos working in Guangdong alone, most of them in the entertainment and service industries. Multinational companies are also sending in their writers, artists, designers, etc. to take the lead in their booming fields.

Filpino workers have a chance to make it good in this sprawling country, he says, especially because their behavior so far has been exemplary. "We're more accommodating and are hard workers. Maybe it's the displacement—but we put in long hours and our output are more polished. Filipinos act rather than talk, they come on time, they pay attention to hygiene. Maybe that's why the Chinese feel more affinity with Filipinos."

De Dios believes and hopes that in time, he won't be the only Filipino making his mark in the economic giant. "I'd like to elevate the marketing discipline in China to surpass that in Western countries. I wish for more Filipinos to go to China and try. We don't have to be all entertainers or domestic workers." •

How to make it in China

1. Be respectful of their culture. Do not express disdain or discomfort, even if some of the practices may seem strange by your standards. Learn to adjust and get along.

2. Think of the long-term. The Chinese look at business as relationship-based. If you work hard and do them a good turn every now and then, they will remember you and return the favor in the future.

3. In such a vast country, be open to cultural diversity even among the Chinese. A widely-accepted tradition may be practised one way by the Chinese in Shanghai, and another way in Beijing. "It's not one China, it's a thousand," says De Dios.

company describes as a real challenge and opportunity?"

Coping with linguistic differences was one of the hurdles he had to overcome, though not for long. These days, he grins, the Chinese can speak some English and he doesn't have to learn Mandarin. An assistant-cum-translator and trips to surrounding cities and the countryside have helped as well, as De Dios observes the habits of China's immense population: the music they listen to, what they want to read in newspapers and magazines, the video clips they download.

"We've been able to shape the industry," he says with pride. According to the Advertising Age, P&G's annual media budget is $400M, its extensive network reaching consumers in 2,000 Chinese cities.

But keeping abreast of the times is crucial, De Dios adds. "Once you think you've licked the system, something happens," he muses.

Ten years ago, while pursuing a Masters of Science degree in integrated marketing communications at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, De Dios had a preview of how new technologies like the Internet could have an impact on advertising and promotions. Today, he and his colleagues are mandated to keep up with, if not overtake and direct, the new media.

"Something like YouTube is in vogue now," he says of one campaign where a video with all the necessary software for recreation and retooling can be uploaded for free on one website. "A toothpaste commercial can have a video with this favorite singer and you can sing anything you want. During its two-week run, close to a thousand videos were uploaded, and there were one million page views for that site."

The Internet has also been used as a gauge of success, he adds. "Most singers in China before releasing their CDs will release it on the Net. Established singers get a sense of the commercial success of that particular record by the number of download and hits they get. So even new singers can become mainstream artists once they have a hit on the Net."

Other promotions feature tie-ups with a mobile phone company for ring tones, adds De Dios. "Some singers go to a very remote province because it has the most number of downloaded ring tones."

Cutting-edge knowledge and technological savvy, though, aren't enough to succeed among a people who are known for their clannishness and insularism. De Dios says that the good old Pinoy practice of *pakikisama* (PR or good relations) can go a long way." Doing business in China is relationship-based. They will test you to see how sincere you are. Negotiations can take place in a big banquet with strict protocol, or it can be a *carinderia*-style gathering.

Some of his Western colleagues who are more used to straightforward business dealings have a hard time adjusting to the Chinese ways. "First World [people] who are used to a brisk businesslike approach can find so many things odd in China. You can't succeed that way," he cautions.

The Chinese feel more affinity with Filipinos.

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By Eric S. Caruncho
Photographs by Romy Homillada

Finding grace in grief

For actress, environmentalist and artist Chin-chin Gutierrez, losing her mother so soon after a fire razed their family home is another occasion to receive grace. It's finding life again after a near-death experience, she says

IS it possible to lose everything you have and still come out ahead?
"Yes," says Chin-chin Gutierrez without hesitation. "Not even ahead. You realize you didn't lose anything. If you lose everything that you've seemingly become accustomed to, you realize what life is not."

It is the day after her mother's funeral, and though the 32-year-old actress, environmentalist and artist is showing signs of fatigue, her bearing is light and her face is serene. You have to look really close to see the marks left by the fire that took her home and nearly took her life and that of her ailing mother over the Christmas holidays. The hands that only weeks before were raw and bleeding are covered with fresh new skin, and there are no signs of the flames that marked her face, she says, with the Sign of the Cross.

On the surface, she looks like the Chin-chin of old. But beneath that is a being who has undergone a profound transformation not only by fire but, more important, by grace.

"If I said it before, it would have been easier said than done," she continues. "But since it happened to me, I'm telling you: You are liberated from doubts, from fear, because you've faced death in the face. It's my second life here on earth. It's my mom's second life also. She made it to the New Year and is now in heaven. I'm so liberated from everything that I lost, seemingly, that I can become anything now—maybe become a hermit somewhere. But of course I still have work that I have to continue. It's very hard to go against yourself if you just want to grieve and weep and sink, but by God's grace again, He's not even

"Tragedy happens to anyone. And grace, too."

allowing me to. He's not allowing me to recover, because I'm covered," she says with a laugh.

By now, of course, everybody has heard the remarkable story of the fire last December 20 that razed Chin-chin's home and reduced all her earthly belongings to ashes, and of how this slip of a girl, though suffering burns on her hands and face, leaped from the second floor to rescue her bedridden and gravely-ill mother from the flames.

Because of her high media profile, thanks to her role in the popular television drama series "*Maging Sino Ka Man*," the public watched closely as a real-life drama unfolded, enthralled as Chin-chin bounced back from her injuries weeks earlier than the doctors thought she would, to be with her mother on her last days. People continued to follow her story, listening as she spoke in behalf of other fire victims such as those in Ormoc and Valenzuela—tragedies that happen so routinely that we usually screen them out of our awareness—and mourning with her when her mother died on January 12.

It's more than just the usual morbid fascination with celebrity tragedy, too. In some strange way, many people come away from reading or hearing about Chin-chin's personal tragedy enabled in some way: to feel more compassion for the suffering of a fellow human being, or to bear their own suffering with more grace and hope, thanks largely to Chin-chin's generosity in sharing her experience with her public.

"She could have mourned in private, but her feeling is that nothing this devastating can happen and not have something that other people can draw from," says Chin-chin's manager and friend Anjie Ureta, who has been fielding interview requests from the media almost from the beginning. "It's too big to be personal, and her sharing is not one of bitterness and loss. It's very positive. People would come up to me in tears—men and women—and they would tell me how touched they are, and how strengthened they are. She was the one who lost everything yet they draw strength from her."

Chin-chin was still in hospital when she heard about the Ormoc fire that killed 26 shoppers inside a supermarket on Christmas Day, and how one woman survived by climbing the roof, only to find out that she had lost her brother.

"I understood right away what she felt," she says. "In life you can negotiate, but when you're facing fire, it's either going to purify you or destroy you. We were saved, so we were purified. And, you know, that lady's name is also Chin-chin! I said, 'Aha! OK, this is not just about me, it goes beyond me. There's a collective message."

Right after leaving the hospital, Chin-chin prevailed upon the news crew that interviewed her to take her along to their next assignment, a devastating fire in Valenzuela where a couple had lost four of their children and very nearly a fifth.

"I went there not just to share our grief—my mother was still alive at the time," she says. "When my mother passed away, this same couple came to Arlington—*sila naman ang nakiramay* (it was their turn to condole with me). This beautiful, simple couple who are broken to the max had the strength and the space and the time to come to the wake. I'm bearing witness to them."

"It's my second life."

It is this need to bear witness that guides Chin-chin's actions these days. Shortly after leaving the hospital, she went to her chiropractor for treatment of the spinal injuries she sustained during the fire. He told her to let go and let him fix her spine. Chin-chin took that as a sign that she should also let go of her fears and uncertainties and let God fix her life.

"I have such great faith in that," she says. "God works through people and through situations. Just surrender to your Maker and He will fix your life."

Almost from the beginning, there has been an outpouring for her not only of compassion but also of material aid. She is now living with family friends and her needs have been met without her asking. She has also gone back to work, taping new episodes for "*Maging Sino Ka Man*," as well as singing and performing.

"Everything I have now is given to me by friends, through the compassion of people," she continues. " Tragedy can happen to anyone, rich or poor, celebrity or not, and grace can happen to anyone too. Grace is simply given to you, but you have to recognize it. I could have looked at this as a punishment or a test or a tribulation, but I look at it as grace."

The days she was able to spend with her mother she also considers a grace period: that her mother was taken not cruelly in the fire, but peacefully while in the bosom of her loved ones.

Cecilia Arnaldo Gutierrez had been a nun for five years with the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary who, even after she married and bore Chin-chin, never really lost the missionary spirit. Separated from Chin-chin's botanist father, Cecilia continued to pursue her spiritual journey, working in a mission in Mindoro—where she nearly lost an arm after robbers broke into the mission—and in Hong Kong where she ministered to Filipino domestic workers. Chin-chin grew up largely in the care of her grandmother, and it was while she was in college and about to embark on a modeling and acting career that Cecilia finally decided to come home. By then, she was already suffering from the diabetes that would eventually claim her life.

"That was another chapter of our lives—getting to know each other as mother and daughter," says Chin-chin. "It wasn't enough that we each had a

(continued on page 10)

Finding grace in grief (from page 9)

spiritual life, but living together was not easy. It was a lot of work adjusting to each other."

In 2001, Chin-chin began working on "Uyayi," her album of lullabies. It began a period of meditation on the meaning of motherhood: the interrelationships between biological mother, Mother Nature, and the Divine Mother.

"My mother and I consciously decided to put more focus in our mother-daughter relationship. I said 'Mom, we owe it to ourselves to fulfill this. I never got to know you as a child, let's bring peace to our family first and to our relationship.' Thanks to that, we were prepared spiritually, mentally, psychologically, emotionally. We were like one channel."

It was a coming together that would culminate at her mother's death bed. "We were relating to each other soul to soul," Chin-chin says of their final days together. "That's what kept us going. I'm sure God and the Holy Spirit were with us, making it possible for me to materially support her and her medical needs, and to spiritually support her and be with her. Suddenly we didn't know who was taking care of whom. When a mother is singing a lullaby to an infant, surely the infant is not yet conscious and can't do much with her physical body, but the infant is giving the mother a lot of solace and joy and love beyond human comprehension. It was the same. Even though my mom was sick and incapable of doing what she normally could, I believe she was supporting me more than I could support her. She was teaching me how to bear suffering. We left it to God ultimately, what He would decide day by day."

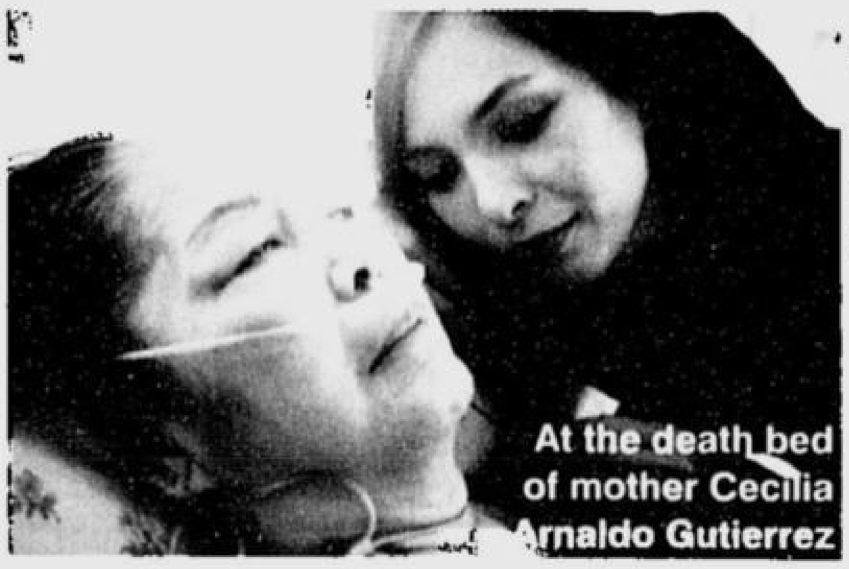
Outwardly, her mother's body seemed to be mending, but perhaps it was only getting ready for the final journey. In the final hours of January 12, Chin-chin was called upon to "birth" her mother, as it were, just as the older woman had birthed her.

"It's very hard to assist the dying," she recalls. "I know what panic is—the same panic situation during the fire. I felt the same panic when I had to assist my mother in her dying moments. She could hear me so I said, 'Look to the light. Look at all the angels receiving you. And that golden light that you see, that's you! Go into that light!' I saw her eyes beginning to transfix from looking at me to looking at the ceiling, and she was teary-eyed. The Holy Spirit or the Lord was giving me visions of what to tell her. And then I could see the corners of her lips smile, and her tears were falling so I knew she could hear me, so I continued. 'Your mama and your papa are calling you, run to them! Jesus, your bridegroom, has arrived, receiving you. Go! Mama Mary is there. She would cry out to Mama Mary often and to me. And then she would also call her own mama. She would look at me and call me mama, but also baby. So even in her deteriorating body, what was unveiled was this shining immutable, untouchable spirit that we all are, which was just more visible and palpable with her."

Finally, after her family had said their farewells and a priest had given the last sacrament, Chin-chin's mother went into the light.

"We received the grace of God as a beautiful fruition—it wasn't a closure or a conclusion but a fruition. A tree bears fruit. She was that seed that fell and died and bore much fruit. And what she leaves with me has become part of me."

On the last night of the wake, Chin-chin felt another profound transformation. "The most beautiful thing happened the day before the burial, in the wee hours of the morning. We were still there at the wake and I realized that my body too was grieving, because its mother host, which was its womb, had already passed away, and so I felt that beyond me too, this biological body had an intelligence of its own, and it's grieving too, and I had to dignify it. And so I spoke and said, 'Now we let go of our mother host, our womb, and I shall take care of you as a temple of our Maker, and thank all the elements that have been borrowed—earth, water air, energy. In the name of our Maker I thank all of you too for doing your best to repair yourself during her illness and I thank all of you for being a temple for my mom. I felt a sudden dizzying feeling and I thought I was going to faint—*parang may kumalas*. I felt an invisible umbilical cord being released, and that's what made me feel not grief but an unimaginable intimacy with the womb. I guess it comes close to feeling like a baby crying when it has left its mama's body, when it's just been born. It's like it's grieving for being separated from its womb. By the grace of God, I was able to be intimate with that feeling again."


At the death bed of mother Cecilia Arnaldo Gutierrez

Martin Arnaldo

It is no coincidence that Chin-chin's current project is called "*Mater Vitae*: Whispers of a New World" which means "Mother of Life," a collection of sacred songs from various spiritual traditions and languages, from Greek Orthodox hymns to Tibetan Buddhist chants, to a Jewish song to readings from the Q'uran with an imam. Her original aim was to celebrate peace and unity in diversity, but in light of her recent experiences, the album, which remains a work in progress, has also become an extension of the new sense of mission she feels.

"It reminds me of what Nelson Mandela said: More often than not, we are more afraid of our light than our darkness. When we see something cataclysmic happen to a person and that person is grieving and hopeless, we can say, *c'est la vie*, that's life, that's reality: suffering, pain.

"But it's not," she continues. "The reality that I'm seeing here is: you can really see the glass as half empty or half full. You can look at your life as a miracle rather than a journal of woes and strife. People can receive grace if they only have faith and are sensitive to grace when it happens, because grace is there—you just have to see it. Maybe it's also a grace that I was prepared to see it, I was prepared to receive it, and now it becomes a reason for me to bear witness to it... One need not doubt nor fear, nor build nor collect so many things to feel that He is alive and well and in the right place. We don't even have to wait till we die to get to heaven: heaven is on earth. I'm not saying it metaphorically anymore." •

By Maria Congee S. Gomez
Photos courtesy of FPMEE

Ain't no mountain high enough

Despite the lack of funds, the resignation of their team leader and adverse family circumstances, two women in the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition are determined to reach the summit, while keeping their feet firmly planted on the ground

IT'S been an uphill journey all this time, and the group seems likely to tumble and crash to the ground.

When Art Valdez announced that he was resigning as leader of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE), people thought the team was breaking up. After all, he was the frontliner, cheerleader and fund-raiser of this hardworking group composed of adventurous souls determined to scale the most challenging peak in the world.

According to reports, internal disagreements prompted Valdez's decision to leave. The other team members had wanted to plant themselves on top of the treacherous mountain, contrary to their erstwhile leader's plan of allowing only the three women in the team to do it. The three—Carina Dayondon, Noelle Christina Wenceslao and Janet Belarmino—were selected by a screening committee over a hundred mountain climbers and, said Valdez in previous interviews, "could hopefully become the first ASEAN women to reach the summit of Mt. Everest."

According to the former Transportation and Communication undersecretary, all he wanted was for the three women to duplicate the feat of Leo Oracion, Pastor Emata and Romi Garduce who reached the mountain summit in May last year.

Dayondon and Wenceslao: Hoping to become the first Filipino women to scale Everest

Yet who could blame the other team members for wanting their share of the glory? They have invested three years of their life on the venture after all, and it wasn't easy to just let go. That's why they're pushing through the climb despite the split in their ranks, says this year's team leader Reggie Pablo.

But that is all the group is saying now, according to PR manager Mark Parlade. The expedition members would rather keep mum to diffuse the tense situation, he says, adding that the group has been misquoted a couple of times and that the negative publicity could hurt them and affect their sponsors' commitment.

The issue on (Valdez's alleged) misuse of funds isn't true at all," clarifies Parlade, of rumors swirling around their former leader's resignation. What's certain, he says, is that Dayondon and Wenceslao are in the thick of extensive alpine training. He acknowledges, however, that they aren't sure yet if Belarmino is sticking with the team.

Belarmino, a member of the UP Mountaineers, is also a fitness instructor for the Moro Lorenzo Fitness Gym in Ateneo, a lawn tennis coach, a champion triathlete and a consistent

(continued on page 12)

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

4								8
			3		9		5	
		1				3		
	3		8				6	
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	7				1		3	
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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

2/04

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Answer to previous puzzle

5	4	6	2	8	1	3	9	7
1	3	7	5	9	6	2	8	4
8	2	9	3	4	7	6	5	1
7	1	3	9	2	8	5	4	6
9	8	4	6	3	5	1	7	2
6	5	2	7	1	4	9	3	8
3	6	5	4	7	2	8	1	9
2	7	8	1	5	9	4	6	3
4	9	1	8	6	3	7	2	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Volume 20 No. 49 February 4, 2007

Ain't no mountain high enough (from page 11)

Dayondon and Wenceslao on Mt. McKinley in Denali, Alaska

winner in the Philippine and Hong Kong legs of the AXN adventure races.

Just over a month ago, things were looking up for the expedition. The women divided their time between physical training and soliciting donors. They were also busy preparing for their trip to the US to raise more funds.

Their need for cash is urgent, says Wenceslao. "The permit we sought in 2004 to climb Mt. Everest from the Tibet side will be expiring soon, and it's too costly to renew it." The team whose next expedition for Everest is set for April this year would need P15 million to make the climb, an amount they have to raise really soon because the best weather condition during which to scale the mountain is the narrow window between May and September.

Admittedly, it is a formidable task for the group, whose website identifies the other members as Ari Ben Sebastian, Fred Jamili, Florentino Narciso, Juan Anonuevo, Levi Nahayangan, Larry Honoridez, Ariel Ambayec, Dr. Ted Esguerra, John Tronco, Choi Aquino and Voltaire Velasco.

But facing up to challenges is nothing new to the women, especially in the name of the sports they love. Dayondon, 28, recalls how she has always loved hiking since her elementary days in Don Carlos, Bukidnon. In college, she started joining mountaineering clubs then went on to sports climbing and adventure racing. With Oracion and Emata, she earned the reputation of being one of Mindanao's strongest contenders in the racing circuit. Dayondon, who dreams of being a popular athlete someday, hopes to turn professional in both the multi-level adventure racing and the triathlon. She recently joined the expedition to the peak of Mt. Muztagh Ata in China-Pakistan, at 24,758 feet, the highest peak ever reached by a Filipina. Wenceslao, 27, on the other hand, considers adventure racing and mountain climbing a third priority. This city girl juggles her time between her Physical Education class at UP Diliman, and training with the UP Dragon Boat team. "I got into (mountaineering) just for the heck of it. It's nothing really serious for a free-spirited person like

(continued on page 14)

Five more reasons to climb Mt. Everest

Alright, because it's there. But the First Philippine Mount Everest Expedition ventures more compelling reasons why they're raising P15 million to conquer fear, thin air and treacherous weather to claw their way to the summit:

1. "To show that the human spirit can achieve what is perceived to be impossible." (Art Valdez)

2. "To show that Filipinos, given focus and direction, can triumph in the midst of extreme challenges." (Valdez)

3. "To achieve pride of place for Tagum, Davao del Norte where I come from, and where we still don't have electricity." (Noelle Wenceslao)

4. "To make fellow Filipinos proud of us. If others can make it, why not us?" (Wenceslao)

5. "To give a positive message and gain more respect from my siblings and family." (Karina Dayondon) •

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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7	1	3	9	2	8	5	4	6
9	8	4	6	3	5	1	7	2
6	5	2	7	1	4	9	3	8
3	6	5	4	7	2	8	1	9
2	7	8	1	5	9	4	6	3
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Difficulty Level ★★★★

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1. "To show that the human spirit can achieve what is perceived to be impossible." **(Art Valdez)**

2. "To show that Filipinos, given focus and direction, can triumph in the midst of extreme challenges." **(Valdez)**

3. "To achieve pride of place for Tagum, Davao del Norte where I come from, and where we still don't have electricity." **(Noelle Wenceslao)**

4. "To make fellow Filipinos proud of us. If others can make it, why not us?" **(Wenceslao)**

5. "To give a positive message and gain more respect from my siblings and family." **(Karina Dayondon)** •

ORGANIZE IT!
HOW TO DECLUTTER EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY IN AND OUTSIDE YOUR HOME

Piece and order situation

NO, a book that can fix and organize your messy room by itself has yet to be invented. But the available how-to's on decluttering your abode are getting better all the time. Now, you can put that New Year feeling into your room, house or condo with the help of "Organize It!" by Mervyn Kaufman (Filpacchi Publishing, P909 at National Book Store).

The book, authored by Woman's Day scribe Kaufman, takes a helpful room-by-room approach to taking charge of your clutter, deploying a logical and natural order through the house (entrances first, then move on to rooms and make the leap to add-ons and exteriors). "Organize It!" uses simple, solid prose and factoids illustrated by large, colorful photographs with a decidedly nook-and-cranny approach.

The book doesn't so much erase the clutter as make sense of it. It exemplifies this thrust in form as well, organizing itself in a flow that makes sense. No book will have all the itty-bitty answers to your space issues, but this book has the big picture well in hand. **Ruel S. De Vera**

Convenient Legend

AT a time when the Metro finds itself being taken over by a phalanx of condominiums and blah-style hotels, inspired and elegant stopovers for busy travellers or business executives are steadily becoming extinct.

Thank the ages then for The Legend Villas. Don't let the narrow entrance, obscured by ever-bustling Pioneer Street, fool you. Once you pass through this portal, Legend's very Pinoy structure spreads out to welcome the visitor—be they a family, a romantic couple or a team raring to work together.

The deliberately Filipino-inspired rooms and architecture generates an Old World charm while offering all the latest business amenities. The 125 rooms are furnished with polished wood that recall Spanish-influenced Filipino ancestral homes—a theme echoed by the *Lola* Maria coffee shop's homegrown cuisine.

The Legend Villas is located at 60 Pioneer corner Madison Street, Mandaluyong City. For inquiries, call 702-2700 to 04, e-mail reservations@legendhotels.com.ph, or log on to www.legendvillas.com.ph.

Poetry

Labyrinth

My life, this is all you are. This narrow space
between the enormous past and the inchoate
future. This minute, which has already
passed, this word, which is already null,
this body, which dies incessantly
with each word. I may have found solace
in language or memory, an alley in Paris
or in Prague, in Kafka or in Proust.
Mirror of the senses, they will disappear
with me, as will all time, space, and death,
these enchanted vectors of the soul.
I move in the world with all of my body,
through the labyrinth made of one
straight line. The inconceivable
infinities no longer bother me. This moment
is all I believe in, October and the dry leaves
blowing where I'm heading, a storm
rushing to presage me. At the crucial junctures
someone will already know my name.
The earth will again unfold its heart
of sulfur, and I will be born
into the recurring terror, inescapable
being, into which I eternally return.
May these small tokens prove that I tried
my best, though human cruelty made no sense
to me, though love was inexplicable, more
phantom than reality. If forgiveness be true,
I want to be annihilated completely,
I want reciprocal forgetting,
I want the angels not to recognize me.

Eric Gamalinda

Ain't no mountain high enough (from page 12)

Belarmino, Dayondon and Wenceslao remain in high spirits

me," says this winning fixture in the AXN races here and in Hong Kong. An expert biker and extreme adventure athlete, she adds that she joined the Mt. Everest team for curiosity's sake.

"I have no idea what to do after college. I was a fitness instructor and a physical therapist at a topnotch gym, but I wasn't happy. I think I was craving for more challenges that would fit my carefree ways," she says. But when Oracion and Emata made it to the summit, Wenceslao says she realized it was a serious undertaking. It also turned out to be problematic. She'd like to devote more time to training, she says, but she found out that she had to help raise funds as well. "This is not an ideal setup. We've been working close to three years now without any stable source of funds."

Thus, when Valdez recommended her and the two other women to the Philippine Coast Guard as enlisted personnel under the special services section, they grabbed at the chance. For a monthly salary of P14,000; the women are expected to report to the PCG three times a week and to wear the PCG badge on all their climbs. Not bad, they said, as the money comes in handy for their families.

Dayondon immediately sent her ATM card number to Bukidnon so that her family could withdraw money from her account. The family needs it, says this elder sister to 10 younger siblings, and the fourth child of a retired bank employee and his businesswoman wife. "I have no reasons not to look after my siblings. My family has given me values that have made me strong-willed enough to breeze through all types of crisis that come my way. I'm not about to give up," she says.

Wenceslao is as committed to the team's goal, even if it means being away from her newly-widowed father. She recalls how her parents picked her up at the airport after her Alaska climb to Mt. McKinley from June to July 2006, only for her mother to collapse in the hotel after experiencing difficulty in breathing. They rushed her to the hospital, but she succumbed to stroke on the same day. The day after she buried her mother, Wenceslao faced the media in a press conference to publicize the FPMEE cause. There was no turning back, she says, despite personal circumstances. "I have nothing else beyond the Everest team. I gave up three years of my life for this (climb) to succeed. There is no way out but to scale that mountain."

The lack of funding, the internal disagreements, the loss of a team leader may be daunting, says Wenceslao, but the team remains intact, she maintains. "Somebody up there must be helping us; otherwise our determination could have been undermined a long time ago," she says.

At the same time, Dayondon and Wenceslao have remained firmly grounded and pragmatic in their approach to their Everest mission. Yes, the possibility of a pull-out is still there, "if something unexpected happens that would put lives at stake," says Wenceslao. If the weather turns against them and the odds of surviving plummets, then they would most likely turn back, she adds.

"I'm not an irresponsible climber and I also have to take care of myself. This expedition is important to my climbing career, but the summit is not worth my life," says Wenceslao. "I think the decision to choose life over career also reveals a huge part of my character, ethics and attitudes on life. Even our sponsors wouldn't like us to take unnecessary risks just to reach the summit."

Reaching the top, she adds, is not the be-all and end-all of the expedition. "It's all about Filipino aspiration and Filipino spirit."

Dayondon agrees. The dangers are very real, she says, but they're going ahead. "*Tuloy pa rin kami* (we're pushing through with the climb). But we need help. We need a lot of donations and a lot of prayers." •

Figure It Out

July, 2005: The Philippines got suspended from international basketball competitions due to its national basketball associations being in crisis.

2: Number of international competitions the Philippines has missed since its suspension, including the Southeast Asian Games, which were held in the Philippines.

January 4, 2005: Vincent "Chot" Reyes was named coach of the national basketball team.

25: Number of PBA players in the national pool

4-6: Number of games removed from the upcoming PBA season to shorten it and allow PBA players to represent the country in Olympic qualifiers

Compiled by Kate Pedroso, Inquirer Research

Celebrating love to the [ani]Max!

AND you thought fantasies only come true in the world of anime. For this year's Valentine's Day, Animax—the coolest destination for the ultimate anime experience—is going to make sure that "Love is in the Air" with its latest event: Celebrity Speed Dating. Animax's first colossal speed-dating event in Manila will give young Filipino adults an alternative dating experience and the chance to win a date with heartthrobs and celebrities led by GMA Artist Center's Mark Herras, models Luke Jickain, Will Devaughn, and UNO girls Isabel Oli, Maike Evers and Aiza Marquez.

Animax's speed-dating extravaganza will be held at SM Mall of Asia's Music Hall on February 10, 2006 from 2-7pm. The event is a wonderful opportunity for young adults to look for a romantic connection with fellow hopefuls, or simply to have a fun time meeting like-minded people during the Valentine's Day period.

Participants and onlookers can also look forward to the much-anticipated return onstage of rocker Ely Buendia and his band Pupil, as well as special guest performances by Amber Rowley, top local bands Callalily, and the award-winning All Stars dance group. Says Ms Judy Chow, director of Animax Marketing, of the Speed Dating event: "Animax is going full-steam ahead to become an exciting platform for young people to explore their areas of interest and live a lifestyle that is simply exhilarating, just like the anime shows that we showcase."

A date with Maike Evers is up for grabs at Animax's Celeb Speed Dating event

Here's how to be part of Celebrity Speed Dating: If you're between 18 and 30 years old, you can register online at www.animax-asia.com until Feb. 7 to get a chance to win a date with a celebrity. What's more, visitors to the Love is in the Air microsite will be spoilt for choice by its numerous features. Be sure to send special Valentine's Day e-cards to friends and that special someone, and put up a declaration of love on the "Love Message Board" on the site. Find out what kind of lover you are with the microsite's quirky love-personality quizzes that should thrill any confessed romantic at heart. So register now and give yourself a chance to meet your love match.

Celebrity Speed Dating is staged by ANIMAX together with UNO and A-List Magazines, GMA Artist Center, SM Mall of Asia and media partners The Manila Bulletin, Philippine Daily Inquirer's 2BU, and The Manila Standard Today. Check out www.animax-asia.com for more details. •

Between poverty and paradise (from page 5)

she has seen only on TV. That was when my tears started to fall. I could not help it. I have never cried in front of a semi-stranger before but for some reason, I cried this time because she was still not immune to these things. Her unawareness taught me to see poverty as if for the first time myself, which brought out a lot of pain. I have become so used to the pain that I have forgotten how it felt until I painted for her the sad face of poverty.

I then found myself having to explain to her that despite all these, the Philippines is still a beautiful country and this you will also feel the very moment you get there. It is a beauty characterized by the indomitable human spirit of a people who have seen better days and yet still have the capacity to find a piece of heaven in their lives. It is a beauty defined by the untiring faith of a people who have learned to acknowledge their plight with reverence and yet have never lost the courage to dream big dreams. It is a beauty characterized by the painful history of a people who have been abused and pillaged through the years and yet still have so much of themselves to give.

Now her tears were falling, smearing the map that I had earlier vandalized with circles and arrows. But I knew it did not matter anymore at this point. I realized that my friend had learned all she needed to know about my country and my people. She thanked me profusely, saying that she came to me wanting to know more about how poor the Philippines is but in the end, she learned how abundantly blessed Filipinos truly are.

A beach is a beach and a volcano is a volcano anywhere in the world, but it is the people who make the difference. I learned in that moment that I may not know the geographical features of my country all too well, but I sure know its heart and its soul because it is who I am.

The real poverty lies in not knowing this. •

Paolo P. Mangahas, 32, is currently working in Kuala Lumpur as Head of Communications for WWF-Malaysia (World Wide Fund for Nature Malaysia). He won Honorable Mention in the 2003 Doreen Fernandez Food Writing Award for his piece "Adobo, I'm Home" and has published several essays on food, lifestyle, fashion, and social and environmental development.

Love is in the Air

ANIMAX

Lonely this Valentine's Day?
Join Love is in the Air, the biggest speed dating event in Philippines and make new friends!
That's not all, you could win yourself a date with these celebrities:

- Mark Herras
- Isabel Oli
- Will Devaughn
- Maike Evers
- Luke Jickain
- Aiza Marquez

Register yourself at www.animax-asia.com/loveisintheair before 7 February 2007.

Terms and conditions apply.

Don't miss your chance to catch a live performance of these celebrities! +Special appearance include: Pupil, Callalily, All Stars & Amber Rowley

Pupil
All Stars
Mark Herras
Isabel Oli

Already in love?

Come down with your partner and enjoy:

- Single/Couple Make-over booth
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- Love song dedication & more!

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10 February 2007 (Saturday)
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